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BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1937

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT

upon the

SANITARY CONDITION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

of the

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF BEDFORD

for the year

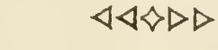
1937

by

CUTHBERT G. WELCH,

M.D. (Lond.), *Degree in State Medicine,* **D.P.H. (Oxon.)**

County Medical Officer of Health.



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INDEX.

	PAGE
Adulteration of Food and Drugs	79-91
Air Raid Precautions	66
Ambulance Facilities	65
Ante-Natal Clinics	44
Area of County	10
Artificial Cream Act	92
Bacteriological Diagnoses	41
Births	11
Blind Welfare	69-71
Bromham House Colony	74
Cancer	19
Causes of Death	14, 15, 16
Census (1931)	10
Deaths	12, 13
Dentistry	35, 44, 53
Diseases (See " Infectious and other Diseases ")	
Diseases, Table of Notifiable	21
Dispensaries (Tuberculosis)	32
Disposal of Refuse	102
District Medical Officers of Health	9, 68
District Medical Officers (Public Assistance)	8
Drainage and Sewerage	98
Extra Nourishment	34, 45
Factories and Workshops, Inspection of	106
Food and Drugs, Adulteration	79-91
Food Inspection	92
Grants to Local Authorities	94, 99
Health Education	74
Health Visiting	33,41,50,55
Hospitals for Infectious Diseases	61
Hospitals, Public Assistance	63
Hospitals, Voluntary	65
Houses, Sanitary Inspection of	106
Housing	104
Housing Act, 1930	104
Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926...	105
Infant Life Protection	50
Infant Welfare Centres	42
Infantile Mortality	16
Infectious and Other Diseases :—	
Cancer	19
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	28
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	30
Diphtheria	23
Dysentery	26
Encephalitis Lethargica...	28
Enteric Fever	26
Enteritis and Diarrhoea	30
Heart Disease	18
Influenza	22
Measles	28
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	29, 47
Puerperal Fever	28, 47
Puerperal Pyrexia	28, 47
Scarlet Fever	25
Smallpox	22
Tuberculosis	30
Venereal Diseases	39
Whooping Cough	29
Immunisation against Diphtheria	24
Institutional Medical Officers (Public Assistance)... ...	7

INDEX—*continued.*

	PAGE
Institutions (Public Assistance)	63
Isolation Hospitals	61
Laboratory Facilities	41
Local Government Act, 1929	61, 94, 99
Luton Exhibition	74
Maternal Mortality	17
Maternity and Child Welfare	41-50
Maternity Homes, etc.	50
Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-27	72
Mental Treatment Act, 1930	72
Midwives Acts	47-50
Milk (Condensed) Regulations	92
Milk and Dairies	75-78
Milk (Dried) Regulations	92
Milk in Schools Scheme	78
Milk and Cream Regulations	92
Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium	34
National Health Campaign	74
Notifiable Diseases	21
Nursing Homes	50
Nursing in the Home, Professional	46
Orthopaedic Treatment	55
Pamphlets for Post Offices	75
Pollution of Rivers	98
Population	10
Preservatives, etc., in Food Regulations	92
Prevention of Blindness	69
Public Assistance Institutions	63
Public Assistance (Medical Domiciliary Treatment) ...	68
Public Health Act, 1936	60
Public Health Act, 1936 (Sec. 172)	37
Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations	92
Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations	92
Public Health Department (Staff)	6-7
Public Vaccinators	7-8
Rateable Value	10
Rats and Mice Destruction	103
Rainfall	98
Refuse Disposal	102
Rivers, Pollution of	98
Sanatorium (Mogerhanger Park)	34
Sanitary Inspectors, List of	9
Sanitary Inspections	106
Scavenging	102
School Medical Service	51
School Milk Scheme	78
Schools, Sanitary Inspection of	106
Sewerage and Drainage	98
Shelters (Tuberculosis)	38
Staff of Public Health Department	6, 7
Still-Births	12, 47
Tuberculosis	30
Tuberculosis Dispensaries	32
Tuberculosis Sanatorium	34
Tuberculosis in Cattle	76
Vaccination Officers	8
Vaccination, Public	59
Venereal Diseases	39
Veterinary Inspection	75
Vital Statistics...	10
Voluntary Hospitals	65
Water Supplies	93-97

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary circumstances of the County of Bedford for the year 1937.

This Report has been prepared in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health as to its scope and arrangement.

During the past year the population of the County is estimated to have increased by 6,190 persons as compared with 12,970 in the previous year. This smaller increase in the population is to be accounted for by the fact that fewer persons migrated to Bedfordshire from other areas.

The Birth Rate for Bedfordshire shows a further rise, being the highest recorded since 1925.

The corrected Death Rate for the County, although slightly higher than last year, continues to be satisfactorily low in comparison with that for England and Wales as a whole.

The Infantile Mortality Rate again shows a further small reduction.

The Public Health Act, 1936, which came into operation on 1st October, 1937, is a noteworthy advance in Public Health legislation. Reference is made to the Act on page 60 of the Report.

During the year good progress was made by the various Local Authorities in the County with their Schemes for providing an adequate water supply to those villages hitherto unprovided with this essential service. In the area of the Ampthill Rural District Council the work has been completed and the system is working satisfactorily. The only portions of the County not supplied from public mains are in the Luton Rural District. The geographical circumstances of this area make the distribution of water from one source uneconomical and arrangements for supplying the District from a number of nearby sources are under consideration.

The organisation for precautionary measures for safeguarding the civil population against the effects of air attack including the preparation of plans for the treatment of casualties is being built up in accordance with the advice of the Government. Many volunteers are still needed to complete the personnel required for the medical section of the Council's Scheme.

Prominence was given during the year to the subject of health education by participation in the National Health Campaign inaugurated by the Minister of Health, together with the inclusion at the Luton Exhibition of a Public Health bureau where publicity was given to the health services available to the people of Bedfordshire.

The Clerk of the Council has, as heretofore been ever ready with his assistance and advice, and my thanks are due to the District Medical Officers of Health for their cordial co-operation at all times.

I should like to place on record my appreciation of the good work of the whole Staff of the Public Health Department during the past year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CUTHBERT G. WELCH,

County Medical Officer of Health.

Shire Hall, Bedford.

June, 1938.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

County Medical Officer of Health :

CUTHBERT G. WELCH, M.D. (Lond.), Degree in State Medicine, D.P.H. (Oxon).

Deputy County Medical Officer of Health and Senior Assistant School Medical Officer :

GEORGE R. PAINTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.).

Assistant Medical Officer and Assistant School Medical Officer :

CHARLES A. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Maternity and Child Welfare)

MARJORIE H. KING, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.).

Assistant Medical Officer (Tuberculosis) (Resident) and Assistant School Medical Officer :

WILLIAM EDWARD MASHITER, M.A., M.D., B.Chir. (Camb.). M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Assistant Tuberculosis Medical Officer :

GEORGE A. HAYMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior School Dental Surgeon :

R. B. T. DINSDALE, L.D.S.

Assistant School Dental Surgeons :

E. DUNSTAN, L.D.S.
E. C. HUMPHREYS, L.D.S.

County Sanitary Inspector and Sampling Officer :

R. E. THOMAS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.I.H.

County Analyst (part time).

J. KEAR COLWELL, Esq., F.I.C.

Health Visitors and Inspectors of Midwives :

MRS. E. H. CURTIS, S.R.N. *(Superintendent)*
MISS C. D. SMITH, S.R.N.
MISS M. K. COAD, S.R.N.
MRS. I. RUSSELL, S.R.N.
MISS R. LAMB, S.R.N.
MISS B. L. HIGGINBOTHAM, S.R.N.
MISS M. REES, S.R.N.
MISS M. A. BACH, S.R.N.
MISS D. A. HIPKISS S.R.N.
MISS M. ROBERTS, S.R.N. (Appointed 4-10-37)

All the Health Visitors hold the Certificate of the C.M.B.

STAFF *(continued)*.

Dental Attendants :

Miss A. R. Peck, S.R.N. Miss A. M. Hayward
Miss D. Lymon (Appointed 27-9-37)

Tuberculosis Nurse :
Miss E. A. Topley, S.R.N.

Clerical Staff :

Chief Clerk : E. H. L. Stonebanks.

1*st Class Clerk* : S. P. Marriott.

2*nd Class Clerks* : Miss D. A. Hands and K. T. White.

Third Class Clerks : C. G. W. Denning and Miss J. K. Turner.

Shorthand Typists : Miss J. M. Brealey and Miss M. R. Haynes.

Junior Clerks : S. J. Adkins, F. S. Setchell and Miss K. E. Williams.

Dispensary Caretaker and V.D. Orderly :
E. Wootton *(Luton)*.

Part-time V.D. Clinic Nurse :
Mrs. H. B. Barker, S.R.N.

Part-time V.D. Orderlies :
J. Hyde *(Luton)* E. H. Gates *(Bedford)*

Public Assistance Institutional Medical Officers and Public Vaccinators (Part time).

Ampthill Public Assistance Institution. ...	Dr. W. R. Van Langenberg (Appointed 1-10-37)
Bedford Public Assistance Institution (St. Peter's Hospital). ...	Dr. H. D. Pollard
Kempston Children's Home.	Dr. E. Gordon
Biggleswade Public Assistance Institution, and Biggleswade Boys' and Girls' Homes.	Dr. F. Bolster
Luton Public Assistance Institution, the Beech Hill Boys' Home and the Farley Hill Girls' Home. ...	Dr. J. M. O'Meara
Leighton Buzzard Public Assistance Institution. ...	Dr. W. H. Square

STAFF *(continued)*.

Public Assistance District Medical Officers and Public Vaccinators (Part time).

District	*P. A. District M. O.*	*Public Vaccinator.*
Bromham	Dr. W. H. Miller	Dr. W. H. Miller
Bedford	Dr. J. A. Leahy	Dr. J. A. Leahy
Clapham	Dr. G. J. Griffiths.	Dr. G. J. Griffiths.
Great Barford	Dr. G. C. Hughes	Dr. G. C. Hughes
Little Barford	Dr. E. J. Cross	Dr. E. J. Cross
Eaton Socon	Dr. C. F. Patterson (appointed 1-3-38)	Dr. C. F. Patterson
Dean	Dr. J. W. Ellis, M.C.	Dr. J. W. Ellis, M.C.
Riseley and Sharnbrook	Dr. C. J. M. Lawrence	Dr. C. J. M. Lawrence
Wymington	Dr. D. G. Greenfield	Dr. D. G. Greenfield
Podington	Dr. O. B. Lean	Dr. O. B. Lean
Harrold	Dr. W. Blayney	Dr. W. Blayney
Turvey	Dr. H. W. Round	Dr. H. W. Round
Biggleswade	Dr. J. C. Rowan	Dr. J. C. Rowan
Potton	Dr. J. J. H. Anderson	Dr. J. J. H. Anderson
Blunham and Sandy	Dr. T. Campbell	Dr. T. Campbell
Shefford and Haynes	Dr. W. J. Johnson	Dr. W. J. Johnson
Arlesey	Dr. M. L. Farmer	Dr. M. L. Farmer
Ampthill No. 1 District	Dr. J. C. C. Howe (appointed 1-10-37)	Dr. J. C. C. Howe
Ampthill No. 2 District	Dr. C. H. Macklin	Dr. C. H. Macklin
Marston Moretaine and Cranfield	Dr. A. E. Street	Dr. A. E. Street
Aspley Guise	Dr. J. Richardson	Dr. J. Richardson
Toddington and Hockliffe	Dr. R. F. M. Fawcett	Dr. R. F. M. Fawcett
Shillington	Dr. W. G. Lidderdale	Dr. W. G. Lidderdale
Barton	Dr. M. O'Donnell	Dr. M. O'Donnell
Dunstable	Dr. H. A. A. Pargeter	Dr. H. A. A. Pargeter
Caddington	Dr. J. E. S. Smith	Dr. J. E. S. Smith
Hyde	Dr. J. G. R. Clarke (appointed 5-7-37)	Dr. J. Birch
Stopsley	Dr. H. O'Meara	Dr. J. Birch
Luton	Dr. J. Robertson	Dr. J. Birch
Leighton Buzzard	Dr. J. Grogono	Dr. C. M. L. Cowper

Vaccination Officers (Part time)

District	*Name and Address of Officer*
Ampthill	Mr. E. H. L. Stonebanks, Bedford.
Bedford	Mr. A. F. Bailey, Bedford
Biggleswade	Mr. C. Rutt, Biggleswade
Dunstable	Mr. E. H. L. Stonebanks, Bedford
Eaton Socon	Mr. H. Pateman, St. Neots.
Leighton Buzzard	Mr. H. G. Gleed, Leighton Buzzard
Luton	Mr. J. Q. Clayton, Luton
Woburn	Mr. E. H. L. Stonebanks, Bedford
Wymington	Mr. T. W. Ginders, Wellingborough

LIST OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTORS OF THE SEPARATE SANITARY DISTRICTS WITHIN THE COUNTY.

URBAN DISTRICTS	MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	SANITARY INSPECTOR	OFFICE ADDRESS
Ampthill ...	W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R.E.	T. A. Hawtin, A.R.San.I. (appointed 1-1-38)	Council Offices, Fire Station, Ampthill.
Bedford	G. K. Bowes, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.	F. C. Haynes, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.	Public Health Department, Town Hall, Bedford.
Biggleswade ...	C. A. Harvey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	W. S. Green, M.Inst. M.Cy.E., A.R.San.I.	Council Offices, Church Street, Biggleswade.
Dunstable ...	H. A. A. Pargeter, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	A. Bishop, Cert. R.S.I. ...	Public Health Department, Council Offices, Dunstable.
Kempston ...	W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R.E.	P. W. Cooper. Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.	Council Offices, Kempston.
Leighton Buzzard	J. Grogono, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	B. H. Robjant, Cert.R.S.I.	Council Offices, Leighton Buzzard.
Luton ...	F. Grundy, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.	A. J. Nichols, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.	Public Health Department, Town Hall, Luton.
Sandy	W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R.E.	T. Douglas, M.R.S.I., F.S.I.A., F.Inst.P.C. A.I.M.E.	Council Offices, Fire Station, Sandy.
RURAL DISTRICTS			
Ampthill ...	W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R.E.	L. Foster, M.I.M. & Cy.E., Cert. R.S.I.	Council Offices, 2 Steppingley Road, Flitwick.
Bedford	W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R.E.	F. Lindley, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.	10 St. Mary's St., Bedford.
Biggleswade ...	C. A. Harvey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	C. M. Robinson, F.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I.	Council Offices, London Road, Biggleswade.
Luton	W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R.E.	H. Pickering, M.I.M. & Cy.E., A.R.San.I.	Council Offices, West Parade, Dunstable.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

The area of the geographical and administrative County is 474 square miles, or 302,942 acres. Its greatest length from North to South is 36½ miles and its greatest breadth 22½ miles from East to West.

The County contains no County Boroughs but includes the three Non-County Boroughs of Bedford, Dunstable and Luton. There are in addition, five Urban Districts, and four Rural Districts.

At the 1st April, 1937, the rateable value was £1,512,250. The estimated produce of a penny rate for 1937-38 was for general County purposes, £5,766.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population of the County, according to the 1931 Census, was 220,525.

The aggregate resident population of the County, as estimated for the middle of 1937, by the Registrar General, was as follows :—

		Persons
Urban Districts		
	Ampthill	2,334
	Bedford	45,250
	Biggleswade	5,932
	Dunstable	13,450
	Kempston	6,720
	Leighton Buzzard	7,004
	Luton	89,360
	Sandy	3,250
	Aggregate of Urban Districts ...	173,300
Rural Districts		
	Ampthill	18,550
	Bedford	23,900
	Biggleswade	23,250
	Luton	14,860
	Aggregate of Rural Districts ...	80,560
	The County	253,860

BIRTHS.

The Birth-Rate for Bedfordshire for the year 1937 was 15.5 per thousand.

3,947 live births were registered in the County, 152 of which were illegitimate. The birth-rates per 1,000 for Bedfordshire and the Urban and Rural Districts thereof, and for England and Wales for the last five years, are given below :—

Localities.	Birth Rate.				
	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Urban Districts	12.3	14.1	14.9	15.0	15.7
Rural Districts	14.9	14.6	14.0	14.5	15.3
Whole County ...	13.2	14.3	14.6	14.8	15.5
England & Wales	14.4	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.9

A further increase is shewn in the County birth rate, the present birth rate being the highest recorded since 1925. The birth rate for England and Wales also shews a very slight increase.

Natural increase of population is the excess of births over deaths and is usually expressed per thousand of the population. In Bedfordshire the natural increase was 4.0 per thousand in 1937 ; that for England and Wales being 2.5 per thousand.

The following tables give the live birth statistics for the County districts for the year 1937 :—

Urban Districts	Total Births.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total Birth Rate.
Ampthill	37	35	2	15.8
Bedford...	607	575	32	13.4
Biggleswade	77	75	2	13.0
Dunstable	219	210	9	16.3
Kempston	112	108	4	16.7
Leighton Buzzard ...	91	88	3	13.0
Luton	1,530	1,473	57	17.1
Sandy	42	42	—	12.9
Aggregate of Urban Districts	2,715	2,606	109	15.7

Rural Districts.	Total Births.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total Birth Rate.
Ampthill	296	286	10	15.9
Bedford	366	359	7	15.3
Biggleswade	292	280	12	12.5
Luton	278	264	14	18.7
Aggregate of Rural Districts	1,232	1,189	43	15.3

STILL BIRTHS.

The Still-Birth Rate for Bedfordshire for the year 1937, that is to say, the rate per thousand total births (live and still) was 32.3.

The Still-Birth Rate *per thousand of the population* for 1937 was 0.50 ; that for England and Wales being 0.60 per thousand.

Particulars of still births registered in the County during the last five years, are set out in the following table :—

		Total.		Legitimate		Illegitimate.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Urban Districts	1933	42	34	42	33	—	1
	1934	45	38	43	37	2	1
	1935	37	50	34	47	3	3
	1936	63	48	62	48	1	—
	1937	53	50	50	46	3	4
Rural Districts	1933	20	20	18	19	2	1
	1934	22	11	21	11	1	—
	1935	20	21	19	21	1	—
	1936	18	19	18	19	—	—
	1937	14	15	13	14	1	1
Whole County	1933	62	54	60	52	2	2
	1934	67	49	64	48	3	1
	1935	57	71	53	68	4	3
	1936	81	67	80	67	1	—
	1937	67	65	63	60	4	5

DEATHS.

The crude Death-Rate for Bedfordshire for the year 1937 was 11.5 per thousand ; that for England and Wales being 12.4 per thousand.

It will be observed that the death-rate for Bedfordshire is below that for England and Wales.

The total number of deaths registered in the County, after adjustment for outward and inward transfers, during 1937, was 2,920, compared with 2,819 in 1936.

The death-rates per thousand of the population for Bedfordshire and the Urban and Rural Districts thereof, and for England and Wales, were as follows :—

Localities.	General Death Rate.				
	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Urban Districts	11.6	11.5	10.9	11.1	11.2
Rural Districts	11.5	12.0	11.5	12.0	12.2
Whole County ...	11.6	11.7	11.1	11.4	11.5
England & Wales	12.3	11.8	11.7	12.1	12.4

The recorded crude Death Rates for the Sanitary Districts in Bedfordshire for 1936 and 1937 are given below :—

Urban Sanitary Districts.	Death Rate.		Rural Sanitary Districts.	Death Rate.	
	1936.	1937.		1936.	1937.
Ampthill	14.6	12.4	Ampthill	14.5	13.6
Bedford	12.3	11.8	Bedford	12.0	12.5
Biggleswade ...	15.3	13.3	Biggleswade ...	10.1	10.7
Dunstable	11.0	11.2	Luton	11.8	12.3
Kempston	9.6	10.0			
Leighton Buzzard...	15.5	14.6			
Luton	9.9	10.5			
Sandy	8.0	12.3			

ADJUSTED DEATH RATES.

In order to obtain a more accurate index of the mortality of a district, and to arrive at a true basis on which to compare the mortality rates of one district with those of another, allowance must be made for the sex and age distribution of its population. In this connection the Registrar-General has supplied comparability factors for each separate district and the County as a whole. The application of these adjusting factors gives the corrected death rates for the County and for the separate sanitary districts thereof, which are as follows :—

Whole County	10.5
Urban Districts :—	
Ampthill	8.5
Bedford	10.4
Biggleswade	11.2
Dunstable	10.5
Kempston	9.5
Leighton Buzzard	12.4
Luton	11.1
Sandy	10.1
Aggregate of Urban Districts ...	10.7
Rural Districts :—	
Ampthill	10.6
Bedford	9.9
Biggleswade	9.3
Luton	11.1
Aggregate of Rural Districts ...	10.1

From an examination of the above table it will be seen that when the various circumstances have been taken into account, the corrected death rate for the County of Bedford is 10.5 as compared with the crude death rate of 11.5.

Causes of death at different periods of life in the County of Bedford, 1937.

Causes of death	Aggregate of Urban Districts										Aggregate of Rural Districts									
	At all ages	under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards	At all ages	under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	4	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	25	—	2	4	18	1	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	4	6	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	99	3	2	—	2	6	13	33	25	14	44	2	—	—	—	1	5	13	8	15
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Resp. System...	85	—	—	—	2	16	27	32	7	1	31	—	—	—	1	7	16	5	2	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	15	2	—	4	2	2	2	2	1	—	15	—	2	2	1	3	4	2	1	—
Syphilis	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	288	1	—	—	—	4	17	118	92	56	145	—	—	—	—	2	12	53	44	34
Diabetes	28	—	—	—	1	—	1	9	14	3	12	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	6	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ...	111	—	—	—	—	1	—	31	35	44	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	22	26
Heart Disease	405	—	—	—	1	2	23	90	140	149	227	—	—	—	—	1	4	43	83	96
Aneurysm	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	114	—	—	—	1	—	2	14	24	73	68	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	18	43
Bronchitis	60	2	—	—	1	—	1	11	16	29	29	3	—	1	—	1	—	4	10	10
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	79	13	7	4	5	—	13	19	9	9	35	7	1	1	3	1	5	7	5	5
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	19	—	—	—	1	1	4	4	3	6	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
Peptic Ulcer	24	—	—	—	—	—	3	15	4	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Diarrhoea. etc.	17	7	—	—	2	—	—	2	1	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Appendicitis	14	—	—	1	3	1	7	1	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases ...	35	2	1	1	2	1	5	12	6	5	19	—	1	1	1	—	4	2	4	6
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	45	—	—	—	1	1	4	15	13	11	31	—	—	—	1	2	1	7	8	12
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes ...	6	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc....	70	68	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	35	32	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Senility	110	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	101	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	44
Suicide	32	—	—	—	1	2	11	15	3	—	12	—	—	—	—	1	7	4	—	—
Other Violence	74	—	2	1	6	13	10	20	8	14	53	—	2	1	2	8	6	15	9	10
Other Defined Diseases... ...	134	7	—	2	10	9	14	29	37	26	64	3	2	1	1	4	9	15	17	12
Causes ill-defined or unknown...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	4
Totals : All Causes ...	1937	110	14	19	64	62	165	491	459	552	983	51	8	13	20	32	79	206	250	324

Causes of Death in the Administrative Areas of The County of Bedford, 1937.

Causes of Death	Administrative Areas												Totals	
	Ampthill Urban	Ampthill Rural	Bedford Borough	Bedford Rural	Biggleswade Urban	Biggleswade Rural	Dunstable Borough	Kempston Urban	Leighton Buzzard Urban	Luton Borough	Luton Rural	Sandy Urban	U.D's, 1937	R.D's, 1937
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	—	—	4	2
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	5	—
Diphtheria	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	—	18	5	—	25	10
Influenza	—	15	34	15	5	7	11	4	3	40	7	2	99	44
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	2	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Tuberculosis of Resp. System...	—	6	14	8	3	9	6	1	3	58	8	—	85	31
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	—	4	5	3	—	6	1	1	—	8	2	—	15	15
Syphilis	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3	3
General Paralysis of the Insane														
Tabes Dorsalis	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	4	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	3	38	79	42	12	36	25	14	11	135	29	9	288	145
Diabetes	1	4	7	5	1	2	3	1	1	13	1	1	28	12
Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c. ...	5	15	39	13	5	14	10	1	3	48	17	—	111	59
Heart Disease	6	59	109	62	16	67	32	19	33	182	39	8	405	227
Aneurysm	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	1	12	63	32	7	19	1	5	2	32	5	3	114	68
Bronchitis	1	6	12	8	4	8	5	1	5	32	7	—	60	29
Pneumonia (all forms)... ...	—	9	26	13	1	8	7	5	3	36	5	1	79	35
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	2	1	10	2	1	2	—	1	—	4	1	1	19	6
Peptic Ulcer	—	2	3	—	1	1	1	1	3	14	1	1	24	4
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	7	2
Appendicitis	—	1	3	1	—	3	—	—	1	9	—	1	14	5
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	4	1	—	8	3
Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ...	—	1	2	1	—	—	3	1	—	3	—	—	9	2
Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	4	13	9	3	4	1	2	2	22	3	2	45	20
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	1	14	14	5	2	8	3	3	2	18	4	2	45	31
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	6	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc....	—	11	18	13	5	3	7	1	5	32	8	2	70	35
Senility	1	6	7	12	3	17	12	1	10	76	13	—	110	48
Suicide	1	5	6	4	—	2	—	—	1	24	1	—	32	12
Other Violence	2	12	17	18	2	13	7	1	4	39	10	2	74	53
Other Defined Diseases... ...	2	16	39	27	5	13	11	2	9	61	8	5	134	64
Causes ill-defined or unknown...	—	6	6	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	4	—	9	10
Totals: All Causes ...	29	252	534	299	79	249	151	67	102	935	183	40	1937	983

A comparative statement showing the chief causes of death in 1936 and 1937 is set out below :—

Cause of Death.	1936	1937
Heart disease	621	632
Cancer	433	433
Arterio-sclerosis and other circulatory diseases	154	185
Cerebral haemorrhage	167	170
Influenza	54	143
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	145	116
Pneumonia	116	114
Bronchitis	105	89
Total	1,795	1,882

As in the previous year, the above-named causes of death were responsible for considerably more than half the deaths occurring in the County during 1937.

The following table showing the percentage of deaths of persons over 65 years of age to total deaths is evidence of the fact that a high proportion of the population survives to a good age.

Localities.	Percentage of Total Deaths.				
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Urban Districts ...	51.7	50.2	50.1	50.2	52.2
Rural Districts ...	59.0	58.1	64.5	59.9	58.4
The County	54.2	52.9	54.9	53.5	54.3

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This is calculated as the proportion of deaths of children under one year of age to every 1,000 live births and forms the record known as the rate of infantile mortality.

The death-rates per thousand of the live births for Bedfordshire, the Urban and Rural Districts thereof, and for England and Wales for the last five years are given below :—

Localities.	Infantile Mortality Rate.				
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Urban Districts	45.3	47.5	44.9	40.5	40.1
Rural Districts	43.3	39.6	36.8	45.6	41.4
Whole County	44.5	44.8	42.4	42.1	40.5
England & Wales	64.0	59.0	57.0	59.0	58.0

It will be observed that the satisfactory low rate of infantile mortality is being maintained and bears favourable comparison with that for the Country as a whole.

Seven of the deaths were of illegitimate children. These furnished a rate of infantile mortality of 46 per thousand illegitimate live births as compared with 25.1 in 1936.

The deaths of infants under one year of age amounted to 5.5 per cent of the total number of deaths at all ages, as in the preceding year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

During the year under review the number of maternal deaths was seven, as compared with seventeen in the previous year.

The following table shows the maternal death rate for the County compared with that of England and Wales for the last five years.

	Year.	Live Births Registered.	No. of Maternal Deaths.	Rates per 1,000 Live Births registered.		
				Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Puerperal Causes.	Total Puerperal Mortality.
Bedfordshire ...	1933	2,988	12	0.67	3.35	4.02
	1934	3,280	18	3.35	2.13	5.48
	1935	3,421	16	2.63	2.05	4.68
	1936	3,678	17	1.36	3.26	4.60
	1937	3,947	7	—	1.77	1.77
England & Wales	1933	580,413	2,618	1.79	2.63	4.42
	1934	597,642	2,748	2.03	2.57	4.60
	1935	598,756	2,457	1.68	2.42	4.10
	1936	605,292	2,301	1.40	2.41	3.81
	1937	610,557	1,988	0.97	2.26	3.23

Of the seven maternal deaths, six occurred in the Borough of Luton and one in the Luton Rural District.

It will be observed that the maternal mortality death rate has this year fallen from 4.6 to 1.77 and is much below the rate of 3.23 for the Country as a whole. A particularly satisfactory feature is the absence of any deaths from puerperal sepsis.

As a means of preventing maternal mortality, ante-natal care is of the utmost importance and during the year under review the Council established five ante-natal clinics, under the care of Dr. Marjorie King, the Council's Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare work. From their inception these clinics proved popular and the attendance of expectant mothers at all of the clinics shows a progressive increase. With a view to supplementing this work a Scheme for ante-natal examinations by medical practitioners of women unable to attend at the clinics is under consideration.

The provision contained in the Midwives Act, 1936, to ensure that the services of a trained midwife are available for all confinements is most valuable. The County Council has arranged with the Bedfordshire County Nursing Association to extend its midwifery service to embrace the whole of the administrative County with the exception of Sandy, Everton and Hyde. The Sandy Nursing Association provides the requisite midwifery service in that area, the Cambridgeshire County Nursing Association serves the parish of Everton, and the Harpenden Memorial Nursing Centre serves the parish of Hyde.

Arrangements have been made at the Bedford County Hospital for the reception in its Maternity Wards of difficult and complicated midwifery cases. During the past year, 80 cases were treated in these Wards under the County Council's Scheme.

Similar arrangements have also been made with the Luton Borough Council for the reception of "County" cases in the Luton Borough Maternity Hospital. During 1937, 59 cases were treated in this hospital under the County Council's Scheme.

Under the arrangements made by the Maternity and Child Welfare Acts Committee, the services of Mr. John Ellison, F.R.C.S. are available for any Doctor in the Council's area who finds it necessary to call in a Consultant in connection with midwifery.

As stated last year, the provision for the adequate isolation and separate nursing of cases of puerperal sepsis is not as complete as one would desire. In this respect provision has been made in the plans for the extension and improvement of accommodation at the Public Assistance Hospitals at Bedford, Luton and Biggleswade.

HEART DISEASE.

There were 632 deaths from heart disease as compared with 621 in the previous year. It is the chief cause of death in Bedfordshire, as elsewhere. 90.5 per cent of the deaths occurred in persons over the age of 55.

The following are the death rates from heart disease for 1937 in Bedfordshire :—

Urban Districts	2.34	per thousand of population
Rural Districts	2.82	,, ,,
Whole County	2.49	,, ,,

The real origin of many of these deaths, and of an appreciable amount of invalidity through life, is rheumatism in childhood, which damages the heart. This important fact is becoming more generally realised and measures both for prevention and treatment are in operation throughout the Country. Exposure, inadequate sustenance, inadequate clothing, particularly in the matter of footwear, and ill-ventilated and damp living and sleeping rooms, are all factors which may predispose to this disease in childhood.

It is impossible to over-emphasize the importance of early and efficient treatment of children found to be suffering from rheumatic affections.

CANCER

433 deaths were certified in 1937 as due to cancer the same number as in the previous year.

The Cancer death rate for the County is 1.71 per thousand of the population ; that for England and Wales being 1.63.

It is reasonable to assume that the actual number of deaths due to cancer has always exceeded the number certified as such.

As there can be no doubt that the ability to diagnose cancer is steadily improving, as a result of increasing knowledge of this disease, part of the increase in cancer as shewn by the figures supplied by the Registrar General is apparent rather than real.

Until such time as the cause or causes of cancer are known no considerable reduction in the death rate can be anticipated. The importance of patients suffering from, or who fear they may be suffering from cancer seeking medical advice at the earliest possible moment, when there is a chance of cure, cannot be over-emphasised. It is still the common experience of surgeons that patients, suffering from Cancer in a part of the body where this growth can be easily removed, present themselves for the first time so late that there is no possibility of cure.

Facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer are available at the following Voluntary Hospitals in Bedfordshire, viz. at Bedford, the County Hospital, and at Luton, the Bute Hospital. Patients are also treated at the Council's Public Assistance Institutions, surgical treatment being available at St Peter's Hospital, Bedford, where the Medical Officer in charge is Mr. H. Dean Pollard, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

Of the 72 patients suffering from cancer (particulars of which are set out below) admitted to the Council's Public Assistance Infirmaries during the year, 56 patients were admitted without previous advice or treatment at any other hospital, and 16 were admitted after previous advice or treatment at other hospitals.

Sites of the Disease	Number of Patients
Uterus	4
Tongue and Mouth ...	3
Breast	6
Lip	2
Skin	1
Bladder	4
Rectum	9
Other sites	43
	72

There is no national or regional radium centre in Bedfordshire, cases coming under the purview of the Council requiring such form of treatment are transferred by arrangement to a Hospital having this provision. In addition any case in which it is considered that treatment in a special Hospital is indicated, the necessary arrangements are made.

An Annual Flag Day brings prominently to the notice of the public the importance of the cancer problem and contributed largely to the sum of £527 which was raised in the County last year to aid the British Empire Cancer Campaign in their investigations as to the cause and prevention of this disease.

The Bedfordshire Branch which has been in existence for twelve years, arranges for lectures to be given in the County on the subject of cancer by medical men to Meetings of Religious Bodies, Women's Institutes, etc.

The following table gives the mean figures for the last four quinquennial periods and also the figures for 1937 :—

Districts.	Mean of 5 Years 1917-1921	Mean of 5 Years 1922-1926	Mean of 5 Years 1927-1931	Mean of 5 Years 1932-1936	1937
Urban :—					
Ampthill ...	5	4	5	6	3
Bedford ...	52	54	67	77	79
Biggleswade	8	11	9	12	12
Dunstable ...	14	14	17	20	25
Kempston ...	6	4	10	9	14
Leighton Buzzard ...	9	9	12	14	11
Luton ...	52	71	87	106	135
Sandy ...	*(Included in Biggleswade Rural prior to 1927)*		7	6	9
Totals	146	167	214	250	288
Rural :—					
Ampthill ...	30	35	36	37	38
Bedford ...	26	34	37	43	42
Biggleswade	33	41	38	38	36
Eaton Bray	7	4	5	*	*
Eaton Socon	7	5	5	†	†
Luton ...	13	14	11	22	29
Totals	116	133	132	140	145
Grand Totals	262	300	346	390	433

* Included in Luton R.D. † Included in Bedford R.D.

The Cancer death-rates per thousand of the population for the whole County and the Urban and Rural Districts thereof, and for England and Wales, were as follows :—

	Death Rate.				
	1933.	1934	1935.	1936.	1937.
Urban Districts ...	1·84	1.54	1.54	1.60	1.66
Rural Districts ...	1.75	1.53	1.83	2.05	1.80
Whole County ...	1.81	1.53	1.64	1.75	1.71
England and Wales ...	1·52	1.56	1.59	1.62	1.63

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications of cases of Infectious Disease received during the year 1937, under Article 14 (2) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926.

	Administrative Areas												
	Ampthill		Bedford		Biggleswade		Dunstable Urban	Kempston Urban	Leighton Buzzard Urban	Luton		Sandy Urban	TOTALS
	Urban	Rural	Borough	Rural	Urban	Rural				Borough	Rural		
Scarlet Fever	4	54	87	69	5	33	10	11	11	144	16	6	450
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	18	21	69	32	52	35	23	9	5	255	36	—	555
Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	4
Pneumonia	2	24	91	27	1	15	3	1	10	62	1	—	237
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Acute Polio-Myelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Dysentery...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	280	—	3	283
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	—	—	8	2	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	15
Erysipelas	—	4	15	5	1	8	1	—	1	32	—	1	68
*Puerperal Fever	—	—	6	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	10
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	3	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	29
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	16
TOTALS	25	106	290	139	61	92	38	23	27	806	57	10	1674

When this table is compared with that of the previous year it will be seen that Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were less prevalent in 1937 than in 1936.

*N.B.—The number of notified cases of Puerperal Fever relate to the first 39 weeks of the year only. In accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act 1936, such cases occurring after the 1st October, 1937, are classed as Puerperal Pyrexia.

INFLUENZA.

One hundred and forty three deaths were attributed to Influenza during 1937 as compared with fifty four in the previous year.

The County death-rate from influenza was 0.56 per thousand ; that for England and Wales being 0.45 per thousand.

During the first quarter of 1937, there was an epidemic of influenza throughout the Country, of which Bedfordshire had its share. Some indication of the prevalence and severity of the epidemic is shown by the death rate for England and Wales for this disease which from 1.5 per thousand of the population during the first quarter fell to .03 per thousand in the third quarter of the year.

The recently published Report by the Medical Research Council entitled "A Study of Epidemic Influenza : with special reference to the 1936-7 Epidemic" contains much of interest to the medical profession and the laity on the subject. As a result of investigations it has been demonstrated that the causative organism of influenza is in the nature of an ultra-microscopic virus. A distinction is made between influenza due to infection by this virus and other conditions simulating influenza, the latter being designated as "febrile catarrhs." In this connection the Report states, "It is clear that a means of differentiating epidemic influenza from febrile catarrh by clinical examination only and independently of determining the presence or absence of the influenza virus, would constitute an important advance in the study of these problems. Among other differences, Dr. Stuart-Harris found that whereas the onset of epidemic influenza is usually sudden, in febrile catarrh it is often insidious ; that in influenza constitutional symptoms predominate, while in febrile catarrh respiratory symptoms are most common ; that the cough in influenza is short and dry, while in febrile catarrh it is more often paroxysmal, irritating, painful and productive. While such differences allow fairly good means of diagnosis in the case of groups of patients, they are by no means as certain in the diagnosis of the condition of individual patients."

Detailed information is contained in the Report of experimental work in connection with the artificial immunisation against influenza (as in the case of diphtheria) and indicate the lines of work which hold out promise for the eventual solution of the problem of the prevention and specific treatment of the disease.

SMALLPOX.

The County was entirely free from Smallpox during the year 1937.

DIPHTHERIA.

The statistics with reference to diphtheria show some improvement on those of the previous year, the number of cases notified in 1937 being 555 as compared with 795 in 1936. There was also a corresponding reduction in the number of deaths namely 35 as compared with 58.

The disease was most prevalent during the last quarter of the year. The areas seriously affected are shown in the table setting out the attack rate per thousand of the population for each district on the following page.

There were marked decreases in the incidence of this disease in the Boroughs of Bedford and Luton and Leighton Buzzard Urban District ; smaller decreases in the Borough of Dunstable, the Luton Rural District and the Kempston Urban District, whilst in the Rural District of Ampthill the same number occurred as in the previous year. Increases in the number of cases notified are shown in the Ampthill Urban District the Bedford Rural District and the Biggleswade Urban and Rural Districts. There were no cases at Sandy during 1937.

Statistics showing the number of cases of diphtheria notified, and the number of deaths from diphtheria in England and Wales, and also in Bedfordshire, for the last 10 years are set out below.

England and Wales.

Year	No. of deaths from Diphtheria	Diphtheria death rate per 1,000 Pop.	No. of cases of Diphtheria notified	Attack rate per 1,000 Population
1928	3191	0.08	61,134	1.55
1929	3446	0.09	62,774	1.59
1930	3497	0.09	73,953	1.84
1931	2673	0.07	50,236	1.26
1932	2339	0.06	43,399	1.08
1933	2646	0.07	47,435	1.18
1934	4085	0.10	68,759	1.70
1935	3488	0.09	65,084	1.60
1936	3081	0.07	57,795	1.42
1937	2963	0.07	61,341	1.49

Bedfordshire.

Year	No. of deaths from Diphtheria	Diphtheria death rate per 1,000 Pop.	No. of cases of Diphtheria notified	Attack rate per 1,000 Population
1928	21	0.10	447	2.11
1929	11	0.05	209	0.98
1930	14	0.06	349	1.58
1931	9	0.04	147	0.67
1932	2	0.01	62	0.28
1933	8	0.03	157	0.70
1934	48	0.21	577	2.52
1935	31	0.13	556	2.37
1936	58	0.23	795	3.21
1937	35	0.14	555	2.19

The following table compares the Diphtheria death rate per thousand of the population for the whole County during the last five years with the death rates from this disease for the Urban and Rural Districts thereof :—

Year	Diphtheria death rate per 1,000 population		
	Whole County	Urban Districts	Rural Districts
1933	0.03	0.05	0.00
1934	0.21	0.25	0.13
1935	0.13	0.17	0.05
1936	0.23	0.31	0.06
1937	0.14	0.14	0.12

The attack rate per thousand of the population for each of the Districts in Bedfordshire for the year 1937 is given below :—

Biggleswade Urban District	8.77
Ampthill Urban District	7.71
Luton Urban District	2.85
Luton Rural District	2.42
Dunstable Urban District	1.71
Bedford Urban District	1.52
Biggleswade Rural District	1.51
Bedford Rural District	1.34
Kempston Urban District	1.34
Ampthill Rural District	1.13
Leighton Buzzard Urban District	0.71
Sandy Urban District ... No cases during 1937	

The attack rate per thousand of the population for England and Wales for the year 1937 was 1.49 and for Bedfordshire 2.19.

Immunization against Diphtheria.

The protection which can be afforded to the population against the contraction of diphtheria by the production of artificial immunity against this disease, has been amply demonstrated by work carried out in a large number of places both in England and abroad.

In the Boroughs of Bedford, Luton and Dunstable schemes are in operation whereby the necessary treatment is provided by the Medical Officer of Health free of charge. In the Ampthill Urban and Rural Districts and the Biggleswade Urban and Rural Districts, schemes provide for the work to be undertaken by general practitioners to whom a fee is paid, the material being supplied by the Council without charge.

In the Kempston and Sandy Urban Districts and the Bedford and Luton Rural Districts, the Council have undertaken to supply on request, the necessary material to medical practitioners without charge. In certain special cases, on the recommendation of their Medical Officer, the Luton Rural District Council paid a fee to medical practitioners carrying out the work of immunisation in the District during 1937.

No arrangements have been made by the Leighton Buzzard Urban District Council with regard to immunisation against diphtheria.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts Committee of the Council offer free immunisation against Diphtheria to the children in attendance at the Council's Infant Welfare Centres, and arrangements have been made by the Public Assistance Committee for the immunisation of the inmates of their Children's Homes.

Publicity has been given by the Authorities concerned by the exhibition of posters and the distribution of suitable leaflets.

The number of children immunised under the schemes referred to above during the past two years is shown in the following table :

Authorities	Number Immunised in	
	1936	1937
Ampthill Urban District	—	108
Bedford Borough	1777	219
Biggleswade Urban District	—	72
Dunstable Borough	196	95
Kempston Urban District	8	—
Luton Borough	694	388
Sandy Urban District	—	—
Ampthill Rural District	—	34
Bedford Rural District	—	—
Biggleswade Rural District	—	45
Luton Rural District	127	—
Bedfordshire County Council (Child Welfare Centres)	40	100
Total	2,842	1,061

SCARLET FEVER.

450 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in the County during 1937, as compared with 538 in the previous year. The greatest number of cases occurred in the months of July and October.

One death occurred from this disease.

Districts.	Death Rate.				
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Urban Districts	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00
Rural Districts	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.00
The County ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00

The death-rate for England and Wales in 1937 was 0.01, the same as in the previous year.

ENTERIC FEVER.

(including Typhoid and Paratyphoid).

There were four cases of Enteric Fever notified during 1937. There were no deaths from this condition.

The case which occurred in the Borough of Bedford acquired infection whilst on a visit away from home ; as also did the case in the Luton Rural District.

The source of the infection of the case notified in the Borough of Luton and also the one in the Bedford Rural District, could not be traced.

Districts.	Death Rate.				
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Urban Districts	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rural Districts	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
The County ...	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00

The death-rate for England and Wales in 1937 was 0.00.

DYSENTERY

As will be seen from the table of notifiable diseases on page 21, 280 cases of Dysentery were notified in the Borough of Luton, during 1937.

Dr. F. Grundy, the Medical Officer of Health for Luton, reported on the out-break as follows :—

"On Wednesday, 18th August, the attention of the Public Health Department was drawn by a local practitioner to a number of cases of enteritis suggestive of a food poisoning which had occurred in his practice. Within the next few days replies to a circular letter addressed to local practitioners revealed that infective enteritis was widespread in the Borough. Bacteriological examinations of faeces demonstrated non-lactose

fermenting organisms some of which were identified as B. Dysenteriae Sonne. In view of these circumstances local practitioners were reminded that under the Infectious Diseases Notifications Act there was a statutory obligation to notify such cases and they were requested kindly to notify without delay. From the outset, however, cases to which our attention was drawn either informally, or by notification, were investigated by the Sanitary Staff and in a large number of cases bacteriological investigations were made.

The usual symptoms were vomiting and diarrhoea of two or three days duration, with abdominal pain in some instances, and generally associated with a short lived pyrexia. Mucous and blood were present in the stool in only a small portion of cases.

Usual investigations of each notified case were made by members of the Sanitary Staff and instructions were left with regard to the disinfection of stools. Soiled bedding and clothing were disinfected. In two instances adult patients were advised to remain off work because they were employed in food handling in a greengrocer's shop and a provision store respectively.

Four cases in all were admitted to the Borough Isolation Hospital, two of them severe cases, for treatment and further investigation, and two who were employed in a fruit shop of which they were the owners, so as to enable another member of the family to carry on the business while they themselves were effectively isolated.

At the onset of the outbreak the Council's Schools were in vacation. As the beginning of the Winter Term approached sufferers of school age were excluded until they were certified fit by the School Medical Officer who acted generally on the certificate of a private practitioner. Contacts of school age were excluded for a period of one week and instructed to attend their own doctor or the School Clinic before returning to school.

The widespread character of the outbreak made it unlikely that any specific article of food was responsible and investigations proved this to be the case.

As a precautionary measure, arrangements were made with the Water Company for the chlorination of the water supply.

An interesting fact revealed in the course of routine investigation of the water supply was that a large number of ball type fire hydrants in the Borough were defective and offered inadequate safeguard against contamination of water mains with surface water and road filth, a matter which has received attention.''

The measures referred to above quickly resulted in a reduction in the number of cases and during the last week of the year no cases were notified.

PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis in the County in 1937. The death-rate, expressed as a rate per 1,000 registered live births, for England and Wales for 1937 was 0.97 as compared with 1.40 in the previous year.

During the year 29 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified and 10 cases of Puerperal Fever as against 30 and 14 respectively in 1936.

It is not possible to make any comparison between the figures for 1936 and 1937 since the number of notified cases of puerperal fever relate only to the period 1st January to 30th September, 1937, after which date, in accordance with the provisions of the new Public Health Act, no further cases are to be notified as suffering from puerperal fever but that such cases are to be included under the heading of puerperal pyrexia.

MEASLES.

Measles was prevalent in the County during 1937. As this disease is not notifiable in this County, the number of cases occurring is unknown, but the returns furnished in connection with the School Medical Service have given information as to the localities in which measles has been prevalent amongst the children attending the elementary schools.

There were six deaths from Measles in the County during 1937 the same number as in the previous year ; representing a death-rate for the County of 0.02.

Districts.	Death Rate.				
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Urban Districts	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02
Rural Districts	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.02
The County ...	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02

The death-rate for England and Wales in 1937 was 0.02 as compared with 0.07 in the previous year.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Three cases of this disease were notified during 1937, two of which died.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

Four deaths from this disease occurred in the County in 1937.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Five deaths occurred from whooping cough during 1937 representing a death-rate for the County of 0.02.

Districts.	Death Rate.				
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Urban Districts	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.03
Rural Districts	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00
The County ...	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.02

The death rate for England and Wales in 1937 was 0.04.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

The Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Amendment Regulations, 1937, provided that on and after the 1st April, 1937, every medical practitioner on first becoming aware that a child on whom he is in professional attendance is suffering from Ophthalmia Neonatorum, shall forthwith make and sign a notification of the case in the prescribed form, and transmit the same to the Medical Officer of Health of the administrative area (for Maternity and Child Welfare purposes) within which the Medical Practitioner is attending such child at the date of notification.

Briefly, the alteration in future procedure is that medical practitioners will notify all cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum direct to the Medical Officer of Health of the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority instead of to the Medical Officer of Health to the Local Sanitary Authority.

In Bedfordshire there are three such Authorities, namely, the Bedford Town Council for the Borough of Bedford, the Luton Town Council for the Borough of Luton, and the Bedfordshire County Council for the remaining areas in the County.

All registered medical practitioners in the County were notified of this change of procedure and supplied with copies of the requisite form of notification.

Fifteen cases of this disease, which, through neglect of treatment, is one of the chief causes of blindness, were notified during the year—as compared with 12 during the preceding year. All the infants received prompt treatment and made a complete recovery. Hospital treatment was necessary in several cases.

DIARRHOEA AND ENTERITIS.

There were nine deaths from these causes among children under two years of age. The death-rate is expressed as the proportion which the deaths under two years of age from this disease form to a thousand live births. For the County the rate is 2.3, which compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales (5.8).

The protection of food from flies and dust both before and after delivery to the consumer, cleanliness in the home and feeding utensils, the covering and frequent removal of household rubbish, are of the utmost importance in preventing these diseases. These precautions are particularly necessary in hot dry weather.

The delivery of milk in bottles, and the increasing custom of delivering food stuffs wrapped in some protective covering, is much to be commended.

It may be well to remind consumers that care is necessary to protect the milk from contamination after its delivery.

Immediately the bottles have been emptied they should be well rinsed and under no circumstances used for other purposes.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 146 deaths registered from this cause in Bedfordshire in 1937, being 5 per cent of the total number of deaths from all causes, as compared with the previous year's total of 160 and 5.7 per cent respectively.

The following table shows the death-rates from pulmonary tuberculosis per thousand population for the County and the Urban and Rural Districts :—

Districts.	Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population.				
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Urban Districts	0.69	0.57	0.67	0.67	0.49
Rural Districts	0.39	0.41	0.45	0.41	0.38
Whole County	0.58	0.52	0.60	0.58	0.46

As will be seen from the above table, the death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis for the County for 1937 was 0.46, compared with 0.58 for England and Wales. The non-pulmonary tuberculosis death-rate for the County for 1937 was 0.12 as compared with 0.06 in the previous year ; that for England and Wales being 0.11.

The County death-rate from tuberculosis (all forms) per thousand of the population was 0.65, that for the combined Urban Districts being 0.73, and that for the combined Rural Districts being 0.46.

As will be seen from the table below the greatest number of deaths occurred in males between the ages of 35 and 65 and in females between the ages of 20 and 35.

The following new cases of tuberculosis were notified, in accordance with the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, during 1937.:—

Pulmonary	Males	127		
	Females	106		
		——	233	
Non-Pulmonary	Males	29		
	Females	31		
		——	60	
			——	293

The total number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified was sixteen in excess of the number notified during the previous year, whilst the non-pulmonary cases showed an increase of ten.

In view of the considerable increase in the Population of the County during the past year, an increase in notifications was to be expected, particularly having regard to the fact that large numbers of previously unemployed persons migrated to the industrial centres of the County.

The following table shows the age periods of the new cases and all deaths from the disease in the County during 1937 :—

Age Periods.	New Cases Notified				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	2
1 & under 5 years	—	—	4	3	—	—	2	6
5 ,, ,, 10 ,,	17	12	7	9	—	1	—	4
10 ,, ,, 15 ,,	6	1	2	1	—	2	2	—
15 ,, ,, 20 ,,	6	12	5	4	3	1	1	1
20 ,, ,, 25 ,,	20	24	3	3	5	14	—	—
25 ,, ,, 35 ,,	33	28	1	1	7	16	1	1
35 ,, ,, 45 ,,	21	15	2	5	10	7	—	2
45 ,, ,, 55 ,,	16	4	2	1	15	6	1	—
55 ,, ,, 65 ,,	12	8	1	3	15	3	3	1
65 and upwards	3	5	—	2	7	4	—	2
Totals ...	134	109	29	33	62	54	11	19

43 other cases (18 males and 25 females) came to the notice of your Medical Officer other than by notification as required by the Regulations, *e.g.*, Death Returns, Inward Transfers, etc.

The importance in the interest of all concerned, of an early diagnosis and notification of this disease cannot be over-emphasized. Where a definite diagnosis of a suspected case is in doubt the Tuberculosis Officers appointed under the County Tuberculosis Scheme are available for consultation, and full facilities are provided for assistance in diagnosis.

If in any particular case, the practitioner considers that the circumstances are such as to render it unnecessary or contrary to the interests of the patient for the home to be visited by an official Medical Officer, any such visits would be dispensed with by arrangement with the Officer concerned.

75 per cent. of the new cases notified under the Regulations were examined by the Council's Tuberculosis Officers.

The number of cases remaining on the Register of Notifications on December 31st, 1937, was 1,738 pulmonary (877 males and 861 females) and 685 non-pulmonary (337 males and 348 females) making a total of 2,423.

The total number on the Register on the last day of the previous year was 2,324.

These figures show that approximately 10 per 1,000 of the population of Bedfordshire were known to be suffering from tuberculosis last year.

During the year 28 cases were removed from the Register as "Recovered from the disease."

Dispensaries.

For Dispensary purposes, the County is divided into three areas, namely, Bedford, Luton and Biggleswade.

The Dispensaries are open on the following days in each week and between the times stated :—

Dispensary at	Day	Time
Dents Road, Bedford	Thursday ...	10.30—12.30
St. Andrew's Rooms, Biggleswade	Wednesday ...	11—1
17, Church Street, Luton ...	Tuesday (Children)	12—1
	,, (Men)	2—5
	Thursday (Women)	2.30—5

The Dispensaries continue to be well attended, both by patients in need of supervision and others seeking advice as to their health. The number of old patients visiting the Dispensaries for periodical examination is highly satisfactory, thus greatly helping in the keeping of an accurate Register of Patients, since all cases are reviewed each year as to progress, fitness for work, etc.

On January 1st, 1937, the total number of names on the Registers of the three Dispensaries was	1,069
During the year the following cases were added :—	
"Lost sight of" cases returned	18
From other Counties	8
New Cases examined and found to be :—	
Definitely Tuberculous	214
Doubtfully tuberculous	1
Non-tuberculous	338
Contacts examined and found to be :—	
Definitely Tuberculous	6
Non-tuberculous	142
	1,796

Of this number 671 were written off for the following reasons :—

Recovered...	30	
Non-tuberculous	485	
Transferred to other Counties or "Lost sight of"	62	
Dead (all causes)	94	
	—	671
Number remaining on 31st December, 1937 ...		1,125

The number of cases remaining on the Registers at the end of 1937 was therefore 1,125, classified as follows :—

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
Men	*Women*	*Children*	*Men*	*Women*	*Children*
417	379	102	68	71	87

together with one "doubtfully tuberculous" case

The number of attendances at the Dispensaries during 1937 (including contacts) was 2,299, and 2,426 visits were paid to the homes of patients by the Tuberculosis Nurse and the Council's Health Visitors.

All cases on the Dispensary Register are visited from time to time by the Council's Health Visitors, and visits and examinations are made by the Tuberculosis Officers as and when required.

During the year 448 consultations took place with medical practitioners, and in addition 467 visits were paid to patients at their homes by the Tuberculosis Officers.

788 specimens of sputum, etc., were examined, the results being as follows :—Positive 207, Negative 581.

462 Domiciliary Reports on Progress (Form G.P. 36) were received during the year from Panel practitioners with regard to insured persons suffering from tuberculosis. The number of insured persons under domiciliary treatment on 31st December, 1937, was 136.

During the year 1937 eight patients suffering from lupus and other forms of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, attended for treatment at the Institute of Ray Therapy in Luton. A total of 543 attendances were made by these patients during the year.

By an arrangement with the Bedford County Hospital and the Bute Hospital, Luton, X-Ray examinations in connection with the Council's Tuberculosis Scheme, are made at these Hospitals. During 1937, 334 such examinations were made.

As in previous years, the Ministry of Pensions have made use of the services of your County Medical Officer as Tuberculosis Referee for the Bedfordshire area. Cases have been referred to me for examination and report by the Ministry of Pensions ; and the local Area Officers of the Ministry have received reports from me as to the condition, progress, etc., of Pensioners suffering from Tuberculosis, and recommendations as to the form of treatment most appropriate in each case.

Extra Nourishment.

As in past years extra nourishment has been granted to suitable cases, all applications being investigated by a special Sub-Committee appointed for this purpose. 56 patients received grants during the year, the periods varying according to circumstances. Every effort is made to see that the milk supplied is of an approved quality, and wherever possible " Accredited " milk is given. In all 20,144 pints of milk and 10,520 eggs were supplied to necessitous tuberculous patients during the financial year ended 31st March, 1938, at a total cost of £353 5s. 11d. as compared with £282 1s. 5d. in the previous twelve months.

Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium.

Institutional treatment for cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and suitable cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis (glandular) is provided at the Council's Sanatorium, situated at Mogerhanger Park. The Sanatorium has accommodation for 84 beds ; 39 male, 39 female, and 6 children. During the year 1937, 125 cases completed treatment at the Sanatorium. Two other cases were admitted for observation and subsequently discharged as non-tuberculous. In 86 cases the disease was either quiescent or the condition much improved, 16 failed to improve, and 23 died in the Institution. One valuable means of lessening the spread of tuberculosis is by removing persons seriously affected with the disease from their homes to the Sanatorium ; this arrangement

results in increased comfort to the sufferer, and greater security to other members of the household. Patients in all stages of tuberculosis are admitted to appropriate wards at the Sanatorium.

The average cost of treatment per patient during the financial year ended 31st March, 1937, was £2 13s. 1d. per week. The average number of beds occupied during this period was 60.

The County Dentists continue to visit the Sanatorium to attend those patients who are found to be in need of dental treatment.

During the year the Committee had under review the replacement of the patients' accommodation at the Sanatorium, with a permanent building the present accommodation having been considered, when erected in 1921, to be of a temporary nature, and the County Architect, in consultation with the County Medical Officer of Health, was instructed to prepare a draft plan for the rebuilding of the patients' accommodation.

Subsequently the question of building an entirely new Sanatorium on another site was raised and the Committee invited the local branch of the British Medical Association to nominate three of their members, representing Bedford, Luton and the rest of the County respectively, to meet them and assist in their deliberations on the subject.

The three doctors nominated were Dr. G. A. Metcalfe, Dr. N. M. Munro, and Dr. W. A. Barnes.

A number of possible sites were inspected and finally two alternative sites were put forward for consideration—one situated at Sharpenhoe and the other at Clophill.

At the request of the Committee, one of the Principal Medical Officers of the Ministry of Health inspected these sites together with the present site at Mogerhanger Park, and recommended that the Patients' Accommodation should be rebuilt at Mogerhanger Park. This recommendation has been adopted and plans are being prepared to carry it into effect.

The following table shows the condition at the end of 1937 of all patients who have received treatment at the Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium since it was opened on the 18th November, 1921 :—

Condition as at 31st December, 1937.	Classification on Admission.													Total Cases.
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.									Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.				
	Early.			Intermediate.			Advanced.			Total.					
	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.		M.	F.	Ch.	Tot	
Discharged during the five years ending 31/12/26—															
Recovered	26	37	25	13	19	1	...	2	...	123	...	1	9	10	133
Disease Quiescent ...	9	10	5	12	7	...	1	...	...	44	1	...	4	5	49
Disease Active ...	6	3	1	3	1	...	1	...	...	15	...	2	...	2	17
Non-Tuberculous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Patient Dead ...	61	39	4	98	44	3	58	37	8	352	...	...	4	4	356
Transferred to other Areas or lost sight of	22	38	10	8	19	...	4	1	...	102	1	...	5	6	108
Total	124	127	45	134	90	4	64	40	8	636	2	3	22	27	669
Discharged during the five years ending 31/12/31 —															
Recovered	23	35	28	7	7	1	...	...	...	101	1	2	34	37	138
Disease Quiescent ...	29	25	15	6	4	1	...	...	...	80	...	...	17	17	97
Disease Active ...	4	13	3	6	5	...	...	...	...	31	...	1	...	1	32
Non-Tuberculous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Patient Dead ...	69	62	3	109	71	1	38	24	1	378	1	...	2	3	381
Transferred to other Areas or lost sight of	25	31	22	11	15	...	1	...	...	105	...	1	15	16	121
Total	150	166	71	139	102	3	39	24	1	695	2	4	68	74	770
Discharged during the five years ending 31/12/36—															
Recovered	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	2	...	...	3	3	5
Disease Quiescent ...	35	23	37	27	17	3	...	...	...	142	1	...	10	11	153
Disease Active ...	6	11	5	21	18	1	4	3	...	69	...	2	...	2	71
Non-Tuberculous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Patient Dead ...	13	7	3	71	62	1	59	56	...	272	3	1	...	4	276
Transferred to other Areas or lost sight of	8	12	6	7	12	1	...	1	...	47	...	1	1	2	49
Total	62	54	51	127	109	6	63	60	...	532	4	4	14	22	559
Discharged during 1937—															
Recovered*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Disease Quiescent ...	2	6	14	24	11	...	...	...	...	57	...	1	1	2	59
Disease Active ...	4	...	3	5	11	...	2	2	...	27	...	1	...	1	28
Non-Tuberculous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Patient Dead ...	...	...	...	8	4	1	11	6	1	31	...	...	...	...	31
Transferred to other Areas or lost sight of	...	...	1	1	4	...	...	1	...	7	...	...	...	..	7
Total	6	6	18	38	30	1	13	9	1	122	...	2	1	3	127

* No patient is considered to be "Recovered" until five years have elapsed since the disease became quiescent.

The results shown compare very favourably with those published by other similar Institutions.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 172.

It was not found necessary during 1937 to apply for any Orders under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis, cases of the disease specified under this Section having voluntarily agreed to removal to the Council's Institution.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Cases of tuberculosis of the bones, joints, etc., in adults and children are dealt with by securing their admission to Institutions recognised by the Ministry of Health for this purpose. Among those made use of by the Council are the following :—

Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate.
Creaton Sanatorium, Northamptonshire.
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (Country Branch), Stanmore.
Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College, Alton.
St. Martin's Orthopaedic Hospital, Pyrford.
St. George's Convalescent Branch Hospital, Wimbledon.
Wingfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Headington, Oxford.
Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Northampton.
Victoria Home, Margate.
Papworth Village Settlement, Cambridge.
Burrow Hill Sanatorium Colony, Frimley.

It will be observed that some of these Institutions are at a considerable distance from Bedfordshire, and the travelling expenses to and from these Institutions are, therefore, somewhat high. In cases where the patients are unable to meet these costs, the whole or part is paid by the County Council.

In cases where the circumstances of the patients make it impossible for them to bear the cost of surgical appliances, the necessary expenditure is met by the County Council.

Residential Treatment.

The following Table shows the extent of institutional treatment (other than in Public Assistance Institutions) afforded to Bedfordshire patients :—

		In Institutions on 1/1/37	Admitted during the year	Disch'ged during the year	Died in Institutions	Remaining in on 31/12/37
Adults	Men ...	40	72	58	14	40
	Women ...	29	58	49	10	28
Children		25	34	34	1	24
Total		94	164	141	25	92

Of the total of 92 patients remaining in Institutions on the 31st December, 1937, 51 were receiving treatment in the Council's Sanatorium at Mogerhanger. The remaining 41 were receiving treatment in one or other of the Institutions named on page 37.

On comparing these figures with those of the previous year, it is seen that the number of patients admitted to Institutions during 1937 was 10 less than the number admitted during 1936.

The average length of treatment of cases treated at Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium (i.e. the cases discharged during 1937) was as follows :—

Men.	25 weeks 4 days.
Women.	18 weeks 4 days.
Children.	16 weeks 5 days.

With regard to cases of surgical tuberculosis treated in other Institutions the average length of treatment of the cases discharged during 1937 was :—

Men.	78 weeks 4 days.
Women.	30 weeks 4 days.
Children.	54 weeks 3 days.

33 persons suffering from tuberculosis received treatment in the Public Assistance Institutions during the year. When advisable arrangements are made for the transfer of the patients to the Sanatorium ; in some instances complications render such transfer impossible or unsuitable.

Shelters.

The Council own sixteen Shelters which are loaned to suitable patients. Three new Shelters were purchased during the year to replace those beyond repair.

This provision has proved of great service, particularly to patients who have become accustomed to sleeping in plenty of fresh air whilst in sanatoria. Special visits are made to patients to whom shelters have been loaned to ascertain that they are being used for the purpose for which they are supplied.

General.

The closest co-operation exists between your Tuberculosis Officers and the School Medical Officers in the County. All children found by the latter either to be suffering from tuberculosis, or suspected to be so affected, are referred to the Tuberculosis Officers for examination and necessary action.

The same co-operation exists with regard to the general Hospitals at Bedford and Luton. I am gratified to be able to report that the medical practitioners of Bedfordshire continue to make full use of the facilities afforded them under the Council's Tuberculosis Scheme, and I gladly avail myself of this opportunity of expressing to them my sincere thanks for their valuable help, and testifying to the cordial relations which exist between them and the Public Health Department.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Dr. G. R. Painton, Medical Officer in charge of the Venereal Diseases Clinics, has furnished me with the following particulars :—

Improvements were effected during the year to the premises at the Bedford County Hospital, used as a V.D. Clinic by an extension of the treatment accommodation.

The Clinics are open on the following days in each week and between the times stated :—

CLINIC AT	DAY	TIME
Bedford County Hospital ...	Wednesdays ...	... Women, 5.0—6.30 p.m. Men, 6.45—7.45 p.m.
	Fridays ...	... Women 2—3 p.m. Men, 3.15—4.15 p.m.
Bute Hospital Luton ...	Wednesdays	... Women, 2—3 p.m. Men, 3.15 to 4.15 p.m.
	Fridays ...	... Women, 5.0—6.30 p.m. Men, 6.45—7.45 p.m.

Intermediate treatment is carried out at Bedford on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings from 7 to 8 ; and at Luton on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings from 6.30 to 7.30.

For the purpose of comparison, the following tables are inserted, showing the principal statistics for each area for the last five years :—

BEDFORD.

Year	New Cases.				Total No. of injects. of N.A.B., etc.	Wasser-man Tests	Total attend-ances of all Patients
	Syphilis	Gonor-rhoea	Non V.D.	Total			
1933	36	77	8	121	876	130	2976
1934	29	62	21	112	863	117	3957
1935	17	63	19	99	624	99	3348
1936	18	70	26	114	770	205	3099
1937	25	81	29	135	641	196	4475

LUTON.

Year	New Cases.					Total No. of injects. of N.A.B., etc.	Wasser-man Tests	Total attend-ances of all Patients
	Syph-ilis	Soft Chancre	Gonor-rhoea	Non-V.D.	Total			
1933	23	—	87	21	131	1152	120	3118
1934	13	—	80	30	123	602	105	2932
1935	20	—	105	24	149	547	101	4581
1936	16	—	109	44	169	869	239	6000
1937	24	1	114	73	212	488	269	6685

An examination of the above statistics shows an increase in the number of cases coming under treatment for the first time during 1937 at both Clinics, and a considerable increase in the total number of patients' attendances.

It is a noticeable fact that during the past two years, 172 patients presented themselves for examination but were found not to be suffering from any form of venereal disease, 102 of this number attended during the year 1937. This may be attributed to a wider knowledge of the services afforded by the Clinics as a result of recent propaganda on the subject of venereal diseases.

It was necessary for four patients (three males and one female) to receive hospital in-patient treatment during the year, and the necessary arrangements were made with the London Lock Hospital.

At the end of 1937, the total number of patients on the books was as follows :—

	Syphilis		*Gonorrhoea*		*Total*	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Bedford ...	27	21	30	17	57	38
Luton ...	36	22	84	6	120	28
	63	43	114	23	177	66

Of these cases 6 of Syphilis (5 male and 1 female) and 10 of Gonorrhoea (9 males and 1 female) attend the Clinics from outside the County.

It will be seen from the above figures that the total number of persons under treatment or observation on 31st December, 1937, was 243, being an increase of 11 on the previous year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSES.

Arrangements are made whereby medical men practising in the County can obtain free bacteriological examinations in cases of diphtheria, enteric fever and tuberculosis.

With regard to the Boroughs of Bedford and Luton the Medical Officer of Health is supplied with a Laboratory and undertakes the necessary bacteriological work in so far as these Boroughs are concerned.

In the other Districts arrangements have been made for the work to be done at the following Institutions :—

Ampthill Urban District Ampthill Rural District	Dr. R. Wyatt, St. George's Hospital, London.
Bedford Rural District	The Counties Public Health Laboratory, Queen Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
Biggleswade Urban District Biggleswade Rural District Sandy Urban District	The Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, Chelsea Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.
Dunstable Urban District Kempston Urban District Leighton Buzzard Urban District Luton Rural District	The Clinical Research Association, Watergate House, York Buildings, Adelphi, London, W.C.2.

The County Council undertakes the work so far as tuberculosis and venereal diseases are concerned. The necessary outfits are supplied to medical practitioners on request from the Public Health Department at the Shire Hall.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The population of the area served by the Council for Maternity and Child Welfare services is 119,250.

HEALTH VISITING.

The following table gives particulars of the visits paid by the Council's Health Visitors, under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, during the year :—

Visits to Expectant Mothers	776
Primary visits to infants under one year ...	1768
Revisits to infants under one year	11955
Visits to children between one and five years ...	21658
Special visits to " orthopaedic " cases under five years of age	57
	36214

The Borough of Bedford Health Visitors paid 6,087 home visits.

The Borough of Luton Health Visitors paid 15,409 home visits.

Consequent upon the increase in the population of the Borough of Dunstable during recent years the Maternity and Child Welfare work has rapidly expanded, and it has been found necessary to arrange for a Health Visitor to devote the whole of her time to the Council's health services in this area ; accordingly the Health Visitors' Districts were re-arranged and an additional Health Visitor was appointed on the 4th October, 1937. As will be seen from the particulars of the Staff of the Public Health Department on page 6, 10 Health Visitors are now employed by the Council.

Consideration was also given during the year to the question of providing suitable premises to accommodate in one building all the Clinics, etc., in connection with the Health Service of the Council in the Borough of Dunstable. At the present time the Methodist Church Schoolrooms are rented for the purpose of holding an Infant Welfare Centre and Ante-natal Clinic. It has been decided to proceed with the Scheme and at the end of the year under review negotiations were proceeding for the purchase of a suitable site for building.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are seventeen Infant Welfare Centres provided or subsidised by the County Council, at each of which one of the Council's Health Visitors is an active worker. New centres were established during the year at Sharnbrook and Stewartby.

The Council's Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare work attends each centre with the exception of Potton, Woburn, Harrold, Caddington and Toddington. At Potton, the centre is under the care of Dr. C. A. Harvey, whilst arrangements have been made by the Council for local practitioners to attend at two other centres, Dr. R. F. M. Fawcett attending at Toddington and Dr. J. E. S. Smith at Caddington.

Details of attendances, etc., at the Infant Welfare Centres during the year 1937 are set out in the table on the next page.

Dr. G. K. Bowes (Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Bedford) has kindly supplied the following figures in respect of the two Infant Welfare Centres in the **Borough of Bedford** :—

Total attendances during the year	14,035
No. of individual children attending Welfare Centres	1,040
Ante-Natal attendances	1,093

Dr. F. Grundy (Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Luton) has kindly supplied the following figures in respect of the eight Infant Welfare Centres in the **Borough of Luton** :—

Total attendances during the year	32,009
No. of individual children attending Welfare Centres	3,137
Ante-Natal attendances	4,201

ATTENDANCES AT THE INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

Centre	Day and Time		No. of infants who attended the Centre for first time during year		No. of infants attending during the year who at the end of the year were		Total attendances of infants		No. of Consultations with Council's Medical Officer	No. of Sessions held during year
			Under 1 year	Between 1—5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1—5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1—5 years		
AMPTHILL Social Hall	Friday (Weekly)	2.30	55	13	57	63	853	612	620	50
ARLESEY The Institute	Monday (Fortnightly)	2.30	32	9	23	55	305	300	489	24
BIGGLESWADE St. Andrew's Rooms	Tuesday (Weekly)	2.0	64	22	48	140	716	898	650	47
CADDINGTON Church Hall ...	Tuesday (Weekly)	2.30	23	18	21	88	336	735	308	48
CRANFIELD Baptist Schoolroom ...	Tuesday (Fortnightly)	10.30	25	11	22	40	211	174	249	32
DUNSTABLE Methodist Schoolroom	Wednesday (Weekly) and (Fortnightly)	2.30 10.30	174	39	124	264	2185	2028	1256	76
HARROLD The Institute, Harrold	3rd Wednesday	2.30	8	—	8	37	138	191	†—	19
The Recreation Hut, Carlton	Last Wednesday	2.30								
HOUGHTON REGIS Baptist Schoolroom	Thursday (Weekly)	2.30	64	36	41	127	976	1444	803	52
KEMPSTON Council Offices ...	Thursday (Weekly)	2.30	101	8	79	141	1588	1035	681	52
LEIGHTON BUZZARD Premises at Water Lane ...	Friday (Weekly)	2.30	89	19	49	153	1472	1801	647	48
POTTON Parish Hall	Wednesday (Fortnightly)	2.30	36	12	31	50	275	218	394	25
*SHARNBROOK, Church Hall ...	Wednesday (Fortnightly)	2.30	30	59	22	67	205	281	162	14
SHEFFORD Methodist Schoolroom	Wednesday (Fortnightly)	2.30	44	6	28	70	322	406	298	25
‡STEWARTBY Stewartby Club ...	Tuesday (Weekly)	2.30	28	28	16	40	373	362	335	37
STOTFOLD Unionist Club ...	Monday (Fortnightly)	2.30	32	6	29	75	305	443	566	24
TODDINGTON Wesley Hall ...	Tuesday (Weekly)	2.30	34	16	29	89	531	757	761	49
WOBURN Town Hall	1st and 3rd Wednesday	2.30	4	1	3	24	64	160	†—	21
	TOTALS		843	303	630	1523	10855	11845	8219	643

* First session held on 23rd June, 1937.

‡ First session held on 13th April, 1937.

† The Council's Medical Officer does not attend at these Centres.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

During the year 1937 five Ante-Natal Clinics were established in the County area, and the following table gives details of the attendances, etc., at each Clinic.

Clinic	Day and Time	Total number of attendances	Total number of Women attending	No. of Sessions held
BIGGLESWADE St. Andrew's Rooms	Tuesdays (Fortnightly) 10.30	63	25	14
DUNSTABLE Methodist Schoolroom	Thursday (Fortnightly) 10.30	155	47	17
LEIGHTON BUZZARD Premises at Water Lane	Friday (Fortnightly) 10.30	145	48	23
SHEFFORD Methodist Schoolroom	Wednesday (Fortnightly) 10.30	51	27	14
STOTFOLD Unionist Club ...	Monday (Fortnightly) 10.30	47	21	13
		461	168	81

In addition to the above Clinics an Ante-Natal Clinic is provided at the Bedford County Hospital's Maternity Department which is available for the use of women living in the County Area. The Clinic is held on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30.

DENTAL TREATMENT

During the year a Scheme was approved for dental treatment to be provided in suitable cases at the Ante-natal Clinics by the School Dental Surgeon, and in those cases where the services of the School Dental Surgeon cannot be utilised arrangements are made with private dental practitioners for the necessary treatment, the fees for such treatment being in accordance with the National Health Insurance scale. Where artificial dentures are required, the patients contribute towards the cost in accordance with their means.

As the Scheme was not put into operation until the end of the year under review, no statistics are available for 1937.

MILK GRANTS.

During the financial year, 1937-38, 15,393 pints of liquid milk and 415 tins of dried milk were supplied to infants, expectant and nursing mothers, at a total cost of £161 7s. 9d. as compared with £138 1s. 10d. in the previous twelve months. A special Sub-Committee investigates each case, and usually grants are discontinued when the child reaches the age of twelve months, or sooner in those instances where the financial circumstances of the parents have sufficiently improved to warrant its withdrawal. Grants were made in 158 cases.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.

During the year under review 80 cases were admitted to the Maternity Department of the County Hospital in accordance with the arrangement made by the County Council with that Institution, as compared with 68 in the previous year. The average duration of stay was 13 days.

Under arrangements made by the County Council with the Luton Corporation 59 cases were admitted to the Luton Maternity Hospital during the year.

The Bedford and County Girls' Home provides accommodation for 16 mothers and their infants. During 1937, 39 cases were admitted, as compared with 32 in 1936. This Institution is maintained by the St. Albans' Diocesan Girls' Aid Association to which the County Council contributes an annual sum of £345 16s. 7d. An annual grant is also made by the Bedford Town Council.

The number of maternity cases admitted to the Public Assistance Institutions in the County during the last five years is shown in the following table :—

Institution	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Ampthill	—	—	—	1	—
Bedford (St. Peter's Hospital)	77	81	79	108	139
Biggleswade	3	1	11	1	1
Luton	14	22	22	41	18
Leighton Buzzard	—	—	2	1	—

The average duration of stay at St. Peter's Hospital was 14 days, and at the Luton Institution 13 days.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

In the rural areas, the service of nurse-midwives is secured through the agency of the Bedfordshire County Nursing Association, which has been in existence for thirty-nine years. Forty-two District Nursing Associations, employing a total of forty-four District Nurses are affiliated to the parent body covering ninety-four parishes with a total population of 77,124 persons. Five additional Nurses are employed by the County Nursing Association for relief work in the Districts. Statistics showing the work of these Nurses during the year ended 31st March, 1938, are given below :—

No. of cases attended during the year.				Total No. of visits paid.	No. of hours on duty.
Midwifery.	Maternity.	Surgical.	Medical.		
433	389	1792	3351	91,277	87,365

The necessary expenses of each Association are met by the annual subscriptions of the members, together with other subscriptions and donations, supplemented by the proceeds from local entertainments, jumble sales, etc. In cases where, in spite of these efforts, the income is insufficient, grants are made by the County Nursing Association, which, in turn, receives a grant from the County Council.

The Bedford District Nursing Association continued its good work during 1937. This Association provides skilled nursing for persons in their own homes. The minimum subscription for membership is 4/- per annum. The services of the nurses are also available for non-members when a charge is made for each visit. The total number of visits paid by the Nurses during 1937 was 22,500.

The Luton Nursing Association reports another year of successful service. Nine Nurses are employed by the Association. During the year 1937, 31,501 visits were made. Those families who desire to participate in the scheme contribute 6d. per month. This contribution covers the parents, aged dependents and children under 16. Those from 16 to 21 pay 3d. per month. Non-contributors pay a minimum charge of 1/- per visit.

An annual grant is made to both the Bedford and Luton Associations by the County Council through the Public Assistance Committee.

Maternity Outfits.—Sterilised maternity outfits are provided by the County Council at cost price, and in necessitous cases free of charge. During the year three were supplied free of charge, and eleven at cost price.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MIDWIVES ACTS.

The number of midwives who notified their intention to practise midwifery within the Administrative area of the County during 1937 was 122 as against 125 in the preceding year.

On December 31st, 1937, there were, in the administrative area of the County, 97 practising midwives. Of these 53 were nurse-midwives working under Committees affiliated to the Bedfordshire County Nursing Association, and 4 were nurse-midwives employed by independent Local Nursing Associations ; 3 were on the staff of Public Assistance Institutions, and 37 were certified midwives in private practice.

The following table shows the number of notifications received from Midwives during the past five years :—

		1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Of intention to practise		115	116	129	125	122
Of change of address		12	10	22	12	27
Of change of name		1	—	1	1	1
Of sending for medical help		331	345	333	366	258
Of still-births occurring in their practice		26	20	26	22	12
Of deaths occurring in their practice	Mothers	1	—	1	1	1
	Infants	8	10	11	12	4
Of laying out the dead		17	17	8	10	8
Of liability to be a source of infection		33	30	30	17	13
Totals		544	548	561	566	446

Still-births—As will be seen from the above table twelve still-births occurred in midwives' practices during the year. All were legitimate. Enquiries were made in respect of each case and in each case the mother was engaged in household duties.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia—1 case attended by a Midwife was notified as suffering from Puerperal Fever during 1937.

Ophthalmia—Inflammation or discharge from the eyes, however slight. Central Midwives Board Rule E. 12 (5). During 1937 9 cases were reported.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Four cases occurred in midwives' practices during 1937. In each case as the result of treatment the vision was unimpaired.

Each midwife is given a supply of collosal argentum for routine use in the care of infants' eyes. Prompt enquiries are made into every case of " inflamed eyes " occurring in a midwife's practice.

Inspection of Midwives.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by the County Council Inspectors of Midwives during 1937, as compared with the previous four years :—

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Routine visits of inspection	281	285	265	265	235
Visits paid but midwives not at home	168	178	169	158	59
Special enquiry visits arising from notifications ...	458	481	492	562	369
Other special visits and enquiries	279	281	274	209	121
Total	1186	1225	1200	1194	784

It will be observed that the total number of visits in 1937, shows a decrease as compared with 1936, the explanation being that in the latter half of 1936 the Luton Borough Council became the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts, for the midwives in that area.

The number of visits paid by the **Luton Borough** Council's Inspectors of Midwives during the year ending 31st December, 1937, was as follows :

Routine visits of inspection	44
Visits paid but midwives not at home	31
Special enquiry visits arising from notifications ...	237
Other special visits and enquiries	62
Total ...	374

The number of visits paid by the **Bedford Borough** Council's Inspector of Midwives during the year ending 31st December 1937, was as follows :—

Routine visits of inspection and interviews at Office ...	33
Other special visits and enquiries	5
Total	38

Each midwife who has given notice of her intention to practise in the Council's area has been asked to make a return of the number of cases she has attended during the year *(a)* as a midwife, and *(b)* as a maternity nurse (*i.e.*, acting under a medical practitioner).

Returns were made by 95 midwives showing that the 56 midwives, employed by Voluntary Associations under arrangements made with the Council in pursuance of the Midwives Act 1936, attended 479 cases as midwives and 386 cases in the capacity of maternity nurse. The 39 other midwives in the County area attended 214 cases as midwives and 150 cases in the capacity of maternity nurse.

The following table indicates the extent to which individual Nurse-midwives have been engaged in midwifery work during the year :—

	As Midwife (*i.e.*, acting alone)	As Maternity Nurse (*i.e.*, acting under a Doctor.)
Attended no cases	18	13
Attended less than 5	33	38
Attended between 5 and 10 ...	23	25
Attended between 10 and 25 ...	13	18
Attended between 25 and 50 ...	7	1
Attended between 50 and 100	1	—
Attended between 100 and 200	—	—

Medical aid was sought in approximately 37.5 per cent. of the midwives' cases.

During the year, 212 claims under Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918, were received from doctors, amounting to £310 7s. 5d. The sum of £108 18s. 0d. was recovered from patients during the year.

County Midwives Association.

The County Midwives Association held a number of meetings in 1937.

One matter of considerable importance discussed, was the suggestion made by the Midwives' Institute that the Association should be merged in the Midwives' Institute, by becoming the Bedfordshire Branch of that Institute. After discussion it was unanimously decided that the County Midwives' Association should continue as an independent body affiliated to the Midwives' Institute.

Meetings were held at both Bedford and Luton, when lectures were given on a variety of subjects connected with midwifery.

These meetings also served the very useful purpose of enabling the Council's Medical staff to keep in personal touch with the Midwives in the County.

The County Council makes a grant of two guineas per annum to the Association, which now has a membership of 104.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1936

During the year under review, the arrangements made by the Council with the County Nursing Association for the provision of a midwifery service throughout the major part of the area were in operation and have proved generally to be satisfactory. In the areas not served the County Nursing Association, namely Sandy, Everton and Hyde, the local Nursing Associations have provided the necessary midwifery services.

Details of the Scheme were given in the Annual Report for 1936.

NURSING HOMES.

The County Council is the Local supervising authority for the whole County with the exception of the Boroughs of Bedford and Luton.

Visits of inspection have been paid to all registered premises by one of the Council's Medical Officers.

On 31st December, 1937, the number of premises registered in the Council's area was seven ; (as Maternity Homes 2, as Nursing Homes 5), providing a total accommodation of 4 beds for maternity cases and 34 for surgical and medical cases.

The number of registered premises in the **Borough of Bedford** was six, providing accommodation for 18 maternity cases and 41 other cases.

The number of registered premises in the **Borough of Luton** was four, providing accommodation for 8 maternity cases and 17 other cases.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

During the year 1937, 309 visits (82 of which were primary visits) were made to children under the age of nine who are being maintained for reward apart from their parents or relatives.

Generally speaking, the children were found to be well looked after, receiving both care and affection, being in fact, treated as members of the family. In no case was it found necessary to make an Order for the removal of the child.

The number of such children under the age of 9 living in the administrative area of the County on the 31st December, 1937, was 56.

Dr. G. K. Bowes, the Medical Officer of Health for the **Borough of Bedford,** reports that 15 primary visits were made by his Health Visitors, and 121 periodical and special visits.

Dr. F. Grundy, the Medical Officer of Health for the **Borough of Luton,** reports that during the year 555 visits were made by his Health Visitors. The number of infants on the Register was 21.

THE MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The work of this branch of the Public Health Department is fully reported upon in the Annual Report on the School Medical Service, but in accordance with the custom of past years the following statistical information is included :—

Among the 7,151 elementary school children examined, 608 were recommended to have treatment for some defect, excluding decayed teeth and verminous conditions—a smaller proportion than was found in 1936. Of the 744 scholars attending Secondary Schools examined by the Council's Medical Officers, 118 were found to require some form of medical treatment.

The defects found are classified in the following table :—

	Elementary Schools	*Secondary Schools*
Diseases of the Skin ...	in 16 children	in 2 children
External Eye Disease ...	,, 33 ,,	,, 1 child
Defective Vision and Squint	,, 247 ,,	,, 76 children
Diseases of the Ear and Deafness	,, 7 ,,	,, 2 ,,
Chronic Tonsillitis only	,, 43 ,,	—
Adenoids only	,, 11 ,,	—
Chronic Tonsillitis and Adenoids	,, 96 ,,	,, 2 ,,
Heart Disease	,, 17 ,,	,, 4 ,,
Anaemia	,, 12 ,,	,, 1 child
Tuberculosis	,, 2 ,,	—
Rickets, Spinal Curvature and other deformities ...	,, 48 ,,	,, 17 children
Miscellaneous	,, 129 ,,	,, 6 ,,
Totals ...	661	111

At the majority of the schools either a County Council Health Visitor or one of the district nurses provided by the Bedfordshire County Nursing Association attends at the routine medical inspections.

During the year under review 10 inspections were attended by Health Visitors, and 138 by District Nurses.

The average Heights and Weights of scholars attending Elementary Schools are set out in the following table :—

Age Group.	Number weighed and Measured.		Average Height in Inches		Average Weight in Pounds.	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
5	420	422	43.32	43.05	42.93	41.96
8	493	460	49.74	49.59	57.46	53.98
12	507	439	57.25	58.39	83.07	83.8

These figures show little variation from those of last year, small decreases in weight only have occurred in the figures relating to girls of eight and twelve years, the average weights of boys in each category having again slightly increased.

I am happy to report that the standard of nutrition of the school children in the County is satisfactorily high, the steady improvement which has been observed during recent years having been maintained during the period under review.

Each of the School Medical Officers draws attention to the fact that there is practically no real poverty in the County, and that generally speaking economic conditions have continued to be good.

The high standard of nutrition among the children is further exemplified by the large proportion of children coming within the category of " Excellent " nutrition—16.3%, compared with 14.6% in 1936, and points to the very small proportion of school children suffering from insufficiency of nourishment, since it must be borne in mind that in a proportion of the cases referred to, the condition recorded resulted from illness and cannot be attributed to an insufficiency of nourishment.

The improvement in the general nutrition of the children is in part attributable to the increasing knowledge of parents in the proper feeding and upbringing of their children.

It is reasonable to anticipate that the increased facilities for gymnastics and out-door exercises which are now included in the school curriculum will result in an improvement of the physique and health of the children.

SCHOOL DENTISTRY.

The following particulars are given of the work performed in connection with children attending the Council's Elementary Schools in 1937 :—

(1) Number of **Elementary School** children who were :—

(a) Inspected by the Dentist—

Routine Age Groups	5.....	1381	
	6.....	1563	
	7.....	1545	
	8.....	1525	
	9.....	1520	
	10.....	1595	Total ... 13986
	11.....	1635	
	12.....	1526	
	13.....	1476	
	14.....	220	
Specials.....			25
Grand Total			14011

(b) Found to require treatment 10166

(c) Actually treated..... 3971

(2) Half days devoted to { Inspection... 250 / Treatment... 688 } Total ...938

(3) Attendances made by the children for treatment 4223

(4) Fillings ... { Permanent Teeth ... 2233 / Temporary Teeth ... 217 } Total 2450

(5) Extractions { Permanent Teeth ... 1092 / Temporary Teeth ... 4783 } Total...5875

(6) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions...nil.

(7) Other operations to permanent or temporary teeth (Scaling, etc.) 524

During the year the Dental Service has been extended to include pupils attending the Luton Junior Technical School, and from the increasing appreciation shown of this service by the three Secondary Schools in the County, it is reasonable to hope that the same result will follow the introduction of dental treatment at the Junior Technical School.

The lack of suitable accommodation for the Dentists in some of the Elementary Schools, particularly in rural areas, considerably hampers the Dentists in their work.

As an experiment, the Education Committee have purchased a trailer-clinic to be attached to the dentist's car and taken to such schools.

At the time of writing the dental trailer has been in use for a few weeks, and I am pleased to report that it is proving convenient and satisfactory to the Dentist, and popular with the children.

Should extended experience prove the value of the trailer-clinic, the Committee has in mind the purchase of two more such trailers for the use of the two Assistant Dentists.

Dental treatment, although admittedly disagreeable, is so important a branch of preventive medicine, and its beneficial effects so manifest, that it is hard to understand that the small amount of pain or discomfort involved cause so many to refuse the necessary treatment, in which connection parents cannot be held blameless.

The following is the record of the work performed at Secondary Schools during 1937 :—

(1) Number of **Secondary School** Children who were :—

(*a*) Inspected by the Dentist—

Routine Age Groups	10	...	...	34	
	11	...	...	140	
	12	...	...	159	
	13	...	...	146	
	14	...	...	133	Total ... 780
	15	...	...	102	
	16	...	...	49	
	17	...	...	17	
	18	...	...	—	
Specials	...	...	...	...	... ... —
Grand Total			...	...	 780

(*b*) Found to require treatment 540

(*c*) Actually treated 384

(2) Half-days devoted to { Inspection 11 / Treatment 129 } Total 140

(3) Attendances made by the children for treatment ... 478

(4) Fillings { Permanent Teeth ... 737 / Temporary Teeth ... — } Total 737

(5) Extractions { Permanent Teeth ... 83 / Temporary Teeth ... 31 } Total 114

(6) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions 9

(7) Other operations to permanent or temporary teeth (Scaling, etc.) 66

ORTHOPAEDICS.

Ascertainment and Treatment.

Every effort is made to discover persons suffering from crippling defects, both among the adult and child population of this County, and with this object in view the School Medical Officers, Tuberculosis Medical Officers, Medical Officer in charge of Infant Welfare Centres and Health Visitors notify me of all cases coming to their notice. Arrangements are then made for each case to be examined by an Orthopaedic Surgeon whose recommendations for treatment are communicated to the appropriate Committee of the Council.

Orthopaedic treatment frequently includes "in-patient" treatment and the provision of suitable apparatus for the patients, the Council in necessitous cases bearing the whole or part of the cost involved.

I wish to take this opportunity of again placing on record the very helpful co-operation which exists between this Department and the various Voluntary Hospitals in the County and in London, and in particular the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, London, in which Institution and its Country Branch a large amount of treatment is afforded to Bedfordshire cases.

The arrangements outlined above have proved very satisfactory, present-day facilities for travel making it possible, and in many cases more convenient, for patients to attend at a London Hospital.

After-care.

Special attention is given to the following-up of all cases on the register. The patients receive periodical visits in their homes by the Council's Health Visitors, in addition to examinations by the Council's Medical Officers. During 1937, the Health Visitors paid 298 home visits to orthopaedic cases. When necessary, arrangements are made for the patients to be re-examined by an Orthopaedic Surgeon. In necessitous cases the small cost involved in travelling is borne by the Council.

Statistics

As will be seen from the tables on pages 56 and 57 the number of cases on the register at the end of 1936 was 296. Fifty-six cases were added during 1937. Fifty-eight cases were removed for the reasons stated in the tables, leaving 294 cases under observation on 31st December, 1937. An analysis of these cases appears on page 58.

PART I—TUBERCULOUS CONDITIONS ONLY

Classification	Spine	Ribs	Chest Wall	Shoulder	Cheek Bone	Elbow	Wrist	Fingers	Pelvis	Hip	Leg	Knee	Ankle	Foot	TOTAL
1. Number of cases on 1st Jan., 1937, under treatment or observation ...	61	1	1	5	1	3	5	4	—	46	2	15	3	2	149
2. Number of cases dealt with for the first time during 1937, or who returned after being transferred or "lost sight of"	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	—	2	1	—	18
TOTAL	67	1	1	5	1	3	5	5	3	51	2	17	4	2	167
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas during 1937	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
4. Number of cases who died during 1937...	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	6
5. Number of cases who do not desire further public medical treatment ...	6	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	7	—	5	—	1	24
6. Number of cases who have removed and whose present whereabouts is unknown	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3
TOTAL	12	1	—	2	—	1	1	1	—	8	—	7	—	1	34
7. Number of cases REMAINING under treatment or observation on 31st December, 1937	55	—	1	3	1	2	4	4	3	43	2	10	4	1	133

PART II—CONDITIONS NOT TUBERCULOUS

Classification	Committee	Spine	Hip	Knock Knee	Bow Legs	Traumatic Ankle	Flat Feet	Club Feet	Hammer Toes	Pes Cavus	Talipes Equinus	Birth Paralysis	Osteo-Myelitis	Infantile Paralysis	Spastic Paralysis	Ischaemic Paralysis	Rickets	Chest deformities (not congenital)	Cong. Deform.	Wry Neck	Fractures	Amputations	Miscellaneous	TOTAL
1. Number of cases on 1st Jan. 1937 under treatment or observation	Educ.	7	7	4	1	1	8	4	1	1	7	3	7	20	7	–	2	1	4	4	9	–	2	100
	M. & C. W.	1	1	3	5	–	–	3	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	2	17
	P. As.	4	5	–	–	–	5	2	1	–	–	2	–	6	–	1	1	–	–	–	1	–	2	30
2. Number of cases dealt with for the first time during 1937, or who returned after being transferred or "lost sight of"	Educ.	3	–	–	1	–	3	2	1	–	1	–	1	4	1	–	–	–	–	2	3	–	1	23
	M. & C. W.	–	1	2	4	–	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	2	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	15
	P. As.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL		15	14	9	11	1	18	11	3	1	10	6	8	32	9	1	4	1	5	6	13	–	7	185
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas during 1937	Educ.	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
	M. & C. W.	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
	P. As.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
4. Number of cases who died during 1937	Educ.	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
	M. & C. W.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	P. As.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5. Number of cases who do not desire further public medical treatment	Educ.	2	1	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	9
	M. & C. W.	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2
	P. As.	1	1	–	–	–	3	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8
6. Number of cases who have removed and whose present whereabouts is unknown	Educ.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
	M. & C. W.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	P. As.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL		4	2	–	2	–	6	1	1	–	–	–	1	3	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	–	1	24
7. Number of cases REMAINING under treatment or observation on 31st December, 1937	Educ.	7	6	4	2	1	8	6	2	1	8	3	7	22	8	–	2	1	3	5	11	–	3	110
	M. & C.W.	1	2	5	7	–	2	3	–	–	2	1	–	2	1	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	1	29
	P. As.	3	4	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	2	–	5	–	1	1	–	–	–	1	–	2	22

PART III—ANALYSIS OF CASES ON 31st DECEMBER 1937

	Tuberculous conditions (all ages)	Non-tuberculous conditions			Totals
		Under 5 years	5—16 years	Over 16 years	
1. Receiving treatment in Hospital	29	1	5	—	35
2. Under treatment or observation by Orthopaedic Surgeon or own medical attendant	53	23	58	8	142
3. Not in need of treatment but visited periodically :—					
(a) Wearing appliance	11	3	7	1	22
(b) Appliance not necessary	37	2	39	13	91
4. Treatment pending, or in need of treatment, but offer declined	3	—	1	—	4
TOTALS	133	29	110	22	294

PUBLIC VACCINATION.

The following Statistics for the whole County have been compiled from the Monthly Returns of the Vaccination Officers.

	VACCINATION DISTRICT									
	Bedford	Biggleswade	Ampthill	Woburn	Luton	Dunstable	Leighton Buzzard	Wymington	Eaton Socon	Totals
No. of Cases outstanding on 31/12/36	560	98	87	24	357	36	24	2	8	1196
No. of children shown on Birth Sheets received during 1937	1153 — 1713	343 — 441	182 — 269	138 — 162	1685 — 2042	217 — 253	137 — 161	11 — 13	38 — 46	3904 — 5100
Successfully Vaccinated ...	164	41	9	14	166	13	4	—	11	422
Insusceptible of Vaccination	9	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	12
Died Unvaccinated ...	44	8	4	6	47	8	4	1	—	122
Declarations of Conscientious Objection ...	877 — 1094	266 — 315	160 — 173	99 — 119	1334 — 1549	182 — 204	135 — 143	11 — 12	23 — 34	3087 — 3643
No. of Cases outstanding on 31/12/37	619	126	96	43	493	49	18	1	12	1457

It will be observed from the foregoing table that during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1937, 3,904 births were entered on the Births Lists received by the Vaccination Officers, which, together with the number outstanding from the previous year (1,196), made a total of 5,100.

Of this number, 422 were successfully vaccinated, and declarations of conscientious objection were made in respect of 3,087 infants. Of the remainder, 122 died unvaccinated; 12 were found to be insusceptible of vaccination; and 1457 had either left the County or were otherwise outstanding at the end of the year.

In order to obtain as accurate a figure as possible to represent the percentage of children vaccinated in the County, the records in respect of the births returned for the previous twelve months have been examined. From 1st January, 1936 to 31st December, 1936, 3,510 births were returned. By the end of January, 1938, these births had been accounted for as follows :—

Successfully vaccinated	352
Insusceptible of vaccination	7
Number in respect of whom Declarations of conscientious objection were made ...	2,821
Died unvaccinated	122
Vaccination postponed	8
Cases outstanding	200
	3,510

It will therefore be seen that of the births dealt with only 11.28% were vaccinated. With regard to the remaining 88.72% the parents declined to allow vaccination on the grounds of conscientious objection.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

The Public Health Act, 1936, came into operation on the 1st October, 1937.

The Act re-enacts in one Statute of 350 sections the provisions of over 600 sections contained in 60 existing Acts dating from 1840 to the present day. The Act largely abandons the practice of the adoption by Local Authorities of Public Health Provisions, most of such Acts being re-enacted as provisions of general application.

The Act is confined to provisions of a strictly Public Health character relating to the prevention and treatment of disease, dealing with such matters as sewers, drains, buildings, water supply, and the abatement of nuisances on the one hand, and the provision of Hospitals, Maternity Centres, etc., on the other hand.

The laws relating to Lunacy and Mental Deficiency, however, are excluded from the present Act, as is the subject of the housing of the working classes.

Such Enactments as the Notification of Births Act 1907, Part I of the Childrens' Act 1908, the Maternity and Child Welfare Act 1918, and the Nursing Homes Registration Act 1927, are included in the new Act.

HOSPITALS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Particulars of the Scheme made by the County Council under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, with regard to the provision of hospital accommodation for infectious diseases were set out on pages 53 to 55 of my Annual Report for 1934.

The County Council has agreed to make grants to Local Authorities or Boards of Isolation Hospitals within the County in respect of extensions and improvements carried out with the approval of the County Council on the basis of one third of the capital cost, subject to certain conditions being complied with.

On the 1st April, 1936, the Bedford Borough Isolation Hospital was closed, and the Oakley Hill Isolation Hospital, previously the property of the Bedford Rural District Council, was taken over by the Bedford Joint Hospital Board, constituted by the Authorities of the Bedford Borough, Bedford Rural District and Kempston Urban District Councils. Admissions to the Bedford Borough Hospital ceased at the end of February 1937 and from that date patients were admitted to Oakley Hill Hospital.

The Bedford Joint Hospital Board have decided to extend the accommodation at the Oakley Hill Hospital to provide for a total of 64 beds. This proposal has received the approval of the County Council and the Ministry of Health and the work is now in progress.

The Scheme provides for the erection of a new Cubicle Block of 8 beds ; a 14-bedded Diphtheria Block to replace the existing " Tin " Block ; additions to the Administration Block and alterations to the existing buildings so as to accommodate the increased number of staff which will be necessary (a Matron, 14 Nurses and 9 Maids will be required) ; the provision of hot water radiators in the existing Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria Blocks to replace the stoves in the centres of the wards ; the erection of a porter's lodge ; the installation of " Dryers " from the Bedford Borough Isolation Hospital in the laundry ; improvement of the grounds, e.g. new lawns, rose beds and shrubberies ; a new tennis court ; and additions to the existing surface-water drainage system.

In accordance with the County Council's Scheme the Isolation Hospital owned by the Leighton Buzzard Urban District Council at Grovebury was closed for the reception of patients on 31st March, 1936, all cases after that date being admitted to the Dunstable and District Isolation Hospital at Kensworth at which hospital a new cubicle block, providing accommodation for eight beds, is in course of erection.

The work of building a new cubicle block at the Steppingley Isolation Hospital to provide accommodation for 4 beds was commenced during the year.

A proposal to build a Nurses Home has received the approval of the County Council and the Ministry of Health and it is expected that the building will be commenced in the near future.

Arrangements have been made for cases of Encephalitis Lethargica to be treated at the Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Luton, and the Oakley Hill Isolation Hospital, Bedford. For this purpose the County has been divided into two areas, viz, the Boroughs of Luton and Dunstable, the Leighton Buzzard Urban District and the Luton Rural District, to be served by the Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Luton ; the Borough of Bedford, the Ampthill, Kempston, Biggleswade and Sandy Urban Districts, and the Bedford, Ampthill and Biggleswade Rural Districts, to be served by the Oakley Hill Isolation Hospital, near Bedford. A maintenance charge of 3 guineas per patient per week will be paid by the Local Authority from whose area the patient is admitted.

Since 1st April, 1936, a register has been kept in the Public Health Department of all cases of infectious disease admitted to the Hospitals in the County. The information is supplied by the Medical Officer in charge of each Hospital in a weekly return. By means of this register information is readily available as to which hospital has accommodation available for the reception of cases from other districts when the necessity arises. This arrangement is proving satisfactory to all concerned.

The County Council has assumed responsibility for the hospital treatment of cases of Smallpox and has entered into arrangements with the Bedford Town Council, the Luton Town Council and the Biggleswade and District Joint Hospital Board for the provision of accommodation, and an annual sum is paid to each of these bodies in respect of the maintenance of the hospitals. If and when cases occur, the cost of treatment will be a County charge.

A trailer ambulance, for the removal of cases of smallpox, has been purchased by the County Council, and is stationed at the Highways Depot, London Road, Bedford.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS.

Plans have been prepared for the reconstruction and extension of the Luton Public Assistance Institution and for extensions and alterations at the Bedford Public Assistance Institution. Plans have also been prepared for building an entirely new Infirmary at Biggleswade.

Until these extensions have been carried out it will not be possible to close any of the smaller Institutions.

The following table gives brief particulars of the five Institutions in Bedfordshire :—

Name and Situation	Area Served		No. of Sick Wards	Beds available for sick, maternity, and mental cases at 31/12/37			
	Acreage	Pop. acc. to 1931 Census		Men	Women	Children under 16	Total
Ampthill Public Assistance Institution, Ampthill	69,992	22,151	7	49	28	2	79
Bedford Public Assistance Institution (St. Peters Hospital), Kimbolton Rd., Bedford...	118,864	70,298	13	52	63	13	128
Biggleswade Public Assistance Institution, Biggleswade ...	58,275	29,946	9	27	27	2	56
Luton Public Assistance Institution, 11a, Dunstable Rd., Luton ...	39,779	87,164	24	80	110	17	207
Leighton Buzzard Public Assistance Institution, Leighton Buzzard ...	16,032	10,966	8	25	30	—	55
Total	302,942	220,525	61	233	258	34	525

Particulars of admissions, discharges, etc., during the year are set out below :—

Name of Institution.	Patients in on 1/1/37.	Admissions during the year (including infants born in the Institution)	Deaths.	Discharges.	Patients remaining in on 31/12/37.
Ampthill	50	71	30	33	58
Bedford	115	1190	213	975	117
Biggleswade ...	52	112	30	90	44
Luton...	161	835	176	642	178
Leighton Buzzard...	38	33	22	15	34
Total	416	2241	471	1755	431

The table printed on the next page gives information with regard to the classification of the patients treated during 1937.

CLASSIFICATION OF CASES TREATED IN PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS DURING 1937.

DISEASE GROUP.	AMPTHILL.				BEDFORD.				BIGGLESWADE.				LUTON.				LEIGHTON BUZZARD.				Group	TOTALS.			
	CHILDREN		MEN AND WOMEN		CHILDREN		MEN AND WOMEN		CHILDREN		MEN AND WOMEN		CHILDREN		MEN AND WOMEN		CHILDREN		MEN AND WOMEN			CHILDREN		MEN AND WOMEN	
	Discharged.	Died.	Discharged	Died.	Discharged.	Died.	Discharged.	Died.	Discharged.	Died.	Discharged.	Died	Discharged.	Died.	Discharged.	Died.	Discharged.	Died.	Discharged.	Died.		Discharged	Died.	Discharged.	Died.
A Acute infectious disease...	—	—	—	—	28	3	32	14	—	—	—	—	41	2	13	5	—	—	—	—	A	69	5	45	19
B Influenza	—	—	1	1	2	—	23	7	—	—	3	2	2	—	21	4	—	—	—	—	B	4	—	48	14
C Tuberculosis ;—																									
(i.) Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	9	—	—	—	—	C (i.)	—	—	12	13
(ii.) Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	(ii.)	1	—	6	4
D Malignant disease...	—	—	—	3	—	—	8	31	—	—	3	2	—	1	10	23	—	—	1	1	D	—	1	22	60
E Rheumatism :—																									
(i.) Acute rheumatism (rheumatic fever) together with sub-acute rheumatism and chorea	—	—	2	—	—	—	9	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	1	1	E (i.)	—	—	19	2
(ii.) Non-articular manifestations of so-called "rheumatism" (muscular rheumatism, fibrositis, lumbago and sciatica)	—	—	—	—	1	—	10	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	(ii.)	1	—	20	1
(iii.) Chronic arthritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	(iii.)	—	—	7	4
F Venereal disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	1	—	F	—	—	10	1
G Puerperal pyrexia...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	G	—	—	1	—
H Puerperal fever :—																									
(i.) Women confined in the hospital	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	H (i.)	—	—	—	—
(ii.) Admitted from outside	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(ii.)	—	—	2	—
I Other diseases and accidents connected with pregnancy and child-birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	16	1	—	—	—	—	I	—	—	57	1
J Mental diseases :—																									
(i.) Senile dementia	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	J (i.)	—	—	6	2
(ii.) Other	—	—	2	—	—	—	18	3	—	—	8	—	1	—	46	—	—	—	—	—	(ii.)	1	—	74	3
K Senile decay	—	—	—	8	—	—	24	36	—	—	17	15	—	—	3	45	—	—	—	10	K	—	—	44	114
L Accidental injury and violence...	—	—	—	2	5	—	42	7	1	—	12	4	5	—	63	7	—	—	1	—	L	11	—	118	20
In respect of cases not included above.																									
M Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	—	—	4	3	2	—	32	8	—	—	6	1	4	—	57	11	—	—	1	—	M	6	—	100	23
N ,, ,, respiratory system	—	—	3	—	21	—	40	14	1	—	3	—	13	—	27	10	—	—	—	1	N	35	—	73	25
O ,, ,, circulatory system	—	—	6	10	2	7	71	42	—	—	5	5	—	—	51	39	—	—	2	9	O	2	7	135	105
P ,, ,, digestive system	—	—	3	1	11	—	51	10	—	—	7	—	5	—	50	9	—	—	—	—	P	16	—	111	20
Q ,, ,, genito-urinary system	—	—	1	—	2	1	31	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	3	—	—	—	—	Q	2	1	46	17
R ,, ,, skin	1	—	2	—	16	—	27	—	—	—	3	—	45	1	27	2	—	—	2	—	R	62	1	61	2
S Other diseases	—	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	9	—	28	4	34	—	—	—	4	—	S	31	4	50	2
T Mothers and infants discharged from maternity wards and not included in above figures :—																									
(i.) Mothers	—	—	—	—	—	—	144	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	T (i.)	—	—	161	—
(ii.) Infants	—	—	—	—	135	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(ii.)	150	—	—	—
U Any persons not falling under any of the above headings	1	—	4	—	96	—	30	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	U	100	—	36	—
TOTALS	2	—	31	30	322	11	653	202	6	—	84	30	159	8	483	168	2	—	13	22		491	19	1264	452

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.

The Bute Hospital Authorities are engaged in building a new enlarged hospital on a site midway between Luton and Dunstable. It is understood that it is likely to be completed in the Autumn of 1938. The existing Bute Hospital buildings, which have been purchased for use in connection with the extension of the Luton Public Assistance Institution, will then be vacated.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The following particulars with regard to ambulance provisions for accident and non-infectious cases are included in this Report as a ready means of reference for Medical Officers and others concerned :—

Owned by :—	*Stationed at* :—
Bedfordshire County Council ... (Public Assistance Committee) (Telephone : Luton 2872) (Public Assistance Committee) (Telephone : Bedford 3322).	Public Assistance Institution, 11A, Dunstable Road, Luton. Public Assistance Institution, Kimbolton Rd., Bedford.
(National Insurance Act Committee) (Telephone : Blunham 203) (Public Health, &c., Committee) (Telephone : Bedford 3201) Trailer Ambulance	County Sanatorium, Mogerhanger Park. Highways Depot, London Road, Bedford.
Bedford Corporation ... ... (Telephone : Bedford 2222)	Fire Station, Mill St., Bedford.
Luton Corporation ... ... (Telephone : Luton 2222)	Police Station, Luton.
Luton Corporation (Maternity Hospital) (Telephone : Luton 2202)	Maternity Hospital, Dunstable Road, Luton.
British Red Cross Society ... ... (Telephone : Dunstable 309)	Police Station, Dunstable.
St. John Ambulance Brigade ... (Telephone : Leighton Buzzard 43)	Buckmaster's Garage, Leighton Buzzard.
*London Brick Co. & Forders, Ltd. (Telephone : Kempston 311)	Brickworks, Stewartby, near Bedford.
*Mr. J. H. Green ... ... (Telephone : Hockliffe 212)	Hockliffe Garage, Watling Street, Hockliffe.

* These are private ambulances and only available for the use of the public by arrangement with the owners.

In addition to the above a motor ambulance for the removal of cases of infectious disease is attached to each of the five Isolation Hospitals within the County, viz. :—

Oakley Hill Isolation Hospital.	Tel. Bedford 2042.
Spittlesea Isolation Hospital.	Tel. Luton 328.
Biggleswade Isolation Hospital.	Tel. Biggleswade 25.
Steppingley Isolation Hospital.	Tel. Flitwick 352.
Kensworth Isolation Hospital.	Tel. Dunstable 72.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

The organisation required for Casualties Services for Bedfordshire was outlined in a Scheme which was printed in September, 1937. The Scheme provided for the division of the County into six administrative areas as follows :—

Area No. 1	Borough of Bedford.
Area No. 2	Kempston Urban District. Bedford Rural District. Ampthill Urban District. Ampthill Rural District and parts of the Luton Rural District.
Area No. 3	Biggleswade Urban District. Sandy Urban District. Biggleswade Rural District.
Area No. 4	Borough of Luton, together with the Parish of Hyde.
Area No. 5	Borough of Dunstable and parts of the Ampthill and Luton Rural Districts.
Area No. 6	Leighton Buzzard Urban District. and parts of the Luton Rural District.

In areas where two or more Councils were grouped together to form one unit it was recommended that a joint Committee should be appointed. This had already been done in Area No. 3.

The organisation required for each area for the treatment of Air Raid Casualties, which is the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health, includes the following :—

(a) First aid parties available to be despatched to any place where air raid casualties have occurred.

(b) First aid posts to which persons with comparatively minor injuries, or suffering slightly from gas, or with contaminated clothing, could walk or be carried for treatment and, if necessary, change of clothing.

(c) " Casualty clearing hospitals " to which more serious cases could be taken by ambulance, and if not fit for immediate transfer to base hospitals, detained and treated.

(d) " Base hospitals," situated as far as possible outside areas of special danger, for cases evacuated from casualty clearing hospitals.

(e) An ambulance service for use in conjunction with first aid parties and for the movement of stretcher cases from first aid posts to casualty clearing hospitals and from casualty clearing hospitals to base hospitals.

(f) Laundry, &c., services for the decontamination of contaminated clothing.

(g) A clerical organisation for keeping records of casualties, their property and valuables, and their places of treatment.

It was estimated that nearly 3,000 trained individuals would be required for the organisation. Lectures were organised during the year in various centres by the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

In December, 1937, new instructions were received from the Air Raid Precautions Department of the Home Office as to the lay-out, etc., of First Aid Posts, which necessitated a revision of arrangements in Bedfordshire.

The Air Raid Precautions Act, 1937, brought about new changes in procedure and the formulation of plans for the hospital treatment of casualties is held up pending the result of a review by the Ministry of Health in conjunction with the Home Office of the existing hospital provisions on a national basis, and a policy is determined with regard to the question of Base Hospitals.

At the end of the year under review the Scheme for the general organisation of Casualties Services was being amended in accordance with the further advice and publications received from the Home Office.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

On the 1st January, 1937, the offices of Medical Officer of Health for the Biggleswade Urban and Rural Districts became vacant consequent upon the resignation of Colonel H. W. Grattan, C.B.E., D.S.O. The vacancies were filled by the appointment of Dr. Charles A. Harvey, who commenced his duties on the 1st May, 1937. During the interim period arrangements were made for these duties to be carried out by Dr. G. R. Painton, the Deputy County Medical Officer of Health.

At the time of Dr. Grattan's resignation, the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Council had come to the conclusion that the work of that Committee required the whole time services of their Medical Officer—Dr. Marjorie King, who was devoting half of her time to the medical inspection of school children.

After consultation with the Ministry of Health it was decided to invite the Biggleswade Urban and Rural Districts Councils to agree to the appointment of a Medical Officer to fulfill the dual functions of Medical Officer of Health to the two Authorities, and Assistant Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, under the County Council. This suggestion being agreed to, Dr. C. A. Harvey was appointed as Assistant County Medical Officer and commenced his duties in the dual capacity on the 1st May, 1937.

I am happy to report that the arrangement described above is proving entirely satisfactory.

No other new appointments were made during the year under review.

A list of the Medical Officers serving the several local sanitary districts at the present time will be found on page 9 of this Report.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MEDICAL DOMICILIARY TREATMENT.

No change has been made in the procedure adopted for administering this service, but the following staff changes have taken place : Dr. M. O'Donnell was appointed for the Barton District in the place of Dr. J. Rollings, who resigned on the 31st January, 1937 ; Dr. J. G. R. Clarke was appointed for the Hyde District to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. J. A. Clarke, as from 5th July, 1937, and Dr. J. C. C. Howe was appointed for the Ampthill No. 1 District in the place of Dr. W. E. C. Parry, who resigned on the 30th September, 1937.

A list of the Public Assistance District Medical Officers and their Districts will be found on page 8 of this Report.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

During 1937, a Scheme was approved and adopted for the provision of services in connection with the prevention of blindness. Provision is made for the treatment of persons ordinarily resident within the administrative County, suffering from any disease of, or injury to, the eyes. One of the principal objects of the Scheme is the ophthalmic supervision of young people with defective vision, from the time they leave school to the time they become entitled to ophthalmic benefit under the provisions of the National Health Insurance Acts. It is appreciated that in many cases these "school leavers," some of whom are suffering from progressive myopia, continue to wear for several years after leaving school, the glasses supplied to them through the School Medical Service Scheme, which have become unsuited to their needs. Arrangements have been made for these persons to be re-examined by an Ophthalmic Surgeon during this period, and the necessary treatment given.

Arrangements are also in force for providing treatment for serious cases at a special Ophthalmic Hospital.

The Scheme also provides for the ascertainment, through a system of voluntary notification to the Council by medical practitioners, or otherwise, of persons threatened with blindness. The fee to be paid for each such notification is 2s. 6d. A letter has been addressed to all the registered medical practitioners within the County, drawing attention to this provision.

It is not intended that the Scheme shall apply in cases in which treatment, etc., is available through another Committee of the Council, viz. the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, Education Committee ; or by a Local Authority within the County, or to insured persons under the National Health Insurance Acts.

BLIND WELFARE.

No alterations were made in the arrangements for the administration of the Blind Persons Act during the year, which is undertaken by the North and South Bedfordshire Societies for the Welfare of the Blind in their respective areas. The new headquarters of the South Beds. Society in Williamson Street, Luton are greatly appreciated by the blind in that area. There are 4 certificated Home teachers who are engaged in visiting the blind in their own homes where they give help and advice and also lessons in reading from Braille, handcraft work, such as hand and machine knitting, rug making, rush and cane chair seating, mat making, basket making and pastime occupations. They made 7,322 visits during the year. Four of the blind persons are registered as Home Workers, but several others do saleable work. Many voluntary helpers throughout the County render invaluable service in many ways.

The response of the public to the various efforts of the Societies to raise voluntary funds has again been very commendable.

Register of Blind Persons.

A Register is kept by the Clerk of the Council of all blind persons in the County.

On March 31st, 1937, there were 418 registered blind persons residing in the County.

During the year 58 cases were removed from the Register and 67 cases were added to the Register.

The number of cases on the Register on 31st March, 1938, was therefore 427.

The ages and sexes of these 427 blind persons are as follows :—

	Males.	Females.
0— 4	—	1
5—16	6	4
16—21	6	—
21—40	25	15
40—50	31	17
50—65	42	62
65—70	21	33
70 and over	63	101
Total	194	233

The numbers were distributed as follows :—

North Beds.	172
South Beds.	255

The number on the register includes 25 blind persons in Institutions in the County, and 4 children at Schools for the Blind outside the County.

Workshops for the Blind

On the 31st March, 1938 there were 16 blind people employed at the County Workshops for the Blind in Luton in flat and round machine knitting, chair caning and rushing, basket making, brush making, bee skep making, mat making, and wood chopping, whilst one person was undergoing training in brush making.

The Staff of the Workshops consists of a Sighted Foreman, an Assistant Foreman for the Basket Department, a Salesman-Driver, Sighted Female Assistant, and a Caretaker-Handyman.

The Workshops receive the whole-hearted support of the various Departments of the County Council, the Luton Corporation, and many of the large Business Houses in Luton, in disposing of goods made at the Workshops. The two Societies also render considerable assistance in the disposal of goods by bringing them to the notice of the public. The interest of the public is also stimulated by the efforts of the Salesman.

There are ten Blind persons receiving training at various Blind Institutions in the Country in basket making, chair caning, brush making and machine knitting.

Unemployable Blind.

The Voluntary Societies have, during the year under review, considered the circumstances of all unemployable blind persons and, where necessary, have made grants in money or kind to meet the needs of each particular case as far as possible. Since the 1st October, 1931, all the blind persons (except those in Institutions) who hitherto had received assistance through the various Guardians Committees, have been dealt with by the Voluntary Societies. The Blind Persons Act Committee have at the request of the Minister of Health formulated Regulations for the provision of such assistance.

Books for the Blind.

These are supplied on loan by the National Library for the Blind. The Voluntary Societies pay the necessary fees.

Social Events, etc.

Besides the Annual Summer Outings, Social gatherings such as reading circles, teas, etc., have been arranged and additional wireless sets have been supplied.

Prevention of Blindness.

The County Council have delegated their powers under the Public Health Act, 1936, in relation to the prevention of blindness, to the Blind Persons Act Committee, and as reported on page 69 a Scheme for the whole County has been formulated and is in operation.

Inspection.

The Chairman of the Blind Persons Act Committee makes the necessary periodical inspections with regard to the work of the two Societies for the welfare of the Blind, whilst reports are received from the Local Authorities concerned as to the services rendered by Blind Institutions to which Blind Persons from this County may be sent.

MENTAL TREATMENT ACT, 1930.

One of the main objects of this Act is the early diagnosis and treatment of mental disease in its incipient stage without having recourse to the Lunacy Acts.

Arrangements have been made for the reception of both "voluntary" and "temporary" patients at the Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey.

The Committee appointed by the County Council to deal with matters arising under the Act, have arranged for two Out-Patient Mental Treatment Clinics in the County to be held at Bedford and Luton respectively. Dr. N. McDiarmid, the Medical Superintendent of the Three Counties Hospital, has been appointed as Medical Officer in charge of these Clinics. The Luton Clinic is held at the Council's Tuberculosis Dispensary, 17 Church Street, Luton, on the second and fourth Friday in each month at 2.15 p.m., and the Bedford Clinic is held in the Isolation Block of the County Hospital every Thursday at 2.30 p.m.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1927.

Information with regard to cases suspected to be suffering from mental deficiency is received from various sources, viz. the School Medical Officers, the Medical Officers in charge of Infant Welfare Centres, Health Visitors, School Teachers, Social Workers, Police, and others.

The Committee for the Care of the Mentally Defective also receives notifications from the County Education Committee, the Bedford Education Committee, and the Luton Education Committee, in respect of mentally defective persons between the ages of 7 and 16 residing in their respective areas. Certain types of mentally defective children are capable of receiving benefit from instruction in a special school or class under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1921. For these cases, the respective Education Committees are responsible until the age of 16 years is reached, after which a proportion of these cases require to be dealt with by the Committee for the care of the Mentally Defective, to whom they are notified. Such cases are investigated and those found to come within the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Acts are dealt with either by supervision in their own homes, by being placed under guardianship, or admitted to an approved Institution.

Where the defectives' behaviour and the conditions under which they are living are considered to be satisfactory, they can be dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Acts by being placed under guardianship, the defectives' parents or other suitable persons being made the legal guardians.

This procedure, in addition to giving greater control over the defective, permits the Council to make a regular payment towards the cost of maintenance, thus enabling cases to remain at home which otherwise would have to be admitted to an Institution or receive assistance through the Public Assistance Committee.

Arrangements are also made for any necessary treatment to be given by the patient's own medical practitioner. Cases remaining in their homes receive periodical visits from either the County Council's Health Visitors or the Lady Superintendent of the Bedfordshire Voluntary Association. At these visits, suggestions are made as to how the time of the defectives can best be occupied and instruction in rug making, knitting, etc., is given in suitable cases. The visits are much appreciated by the parents and have a good influence on the defectives. Reports are furnished and in cases where it is found to be necessary other action is taken.

The following particulars are given of the numbers of defectives in Institutions or under guardianship as at 31st December, 1937:—

In Certified Institutions :—

	Males	Females	Total
Bromham House, Bedford ...	13	—	13
Bedford Public Assistance Institution	—	14	14
Leighton Buzzard Public Assistance Institution	—	2	2
Stoke Park Colony, Bristol ...	14	12	26
Whittington Hall, Chesterfield ...	—	14	14
Cell Barnes Colony, St. Albans ...	22	8	30
Coldeast Colony, Southampton ...	—	7	7
Girls' Village Home, Barkingside	—	3	3
The Royal Earlswood Institution, Surrey	3	—	3
Caterham Mental Hospital, Surrey	1	—	1
Leavesden Mental Hospital ...	—	1	1
St. Mary's Home, Alton	—	1	1
Rock Hall House, Bath	—	1	1
Hermitage Training Home, Sussex	—	1	1
Seafield House, Near Liverpool ...	1	—	1
Mount Tabor Home, Basingstoke...	—	1	1
Chasefield Laundry Home, Bristol	—	1	1
Hillside Certified Institution, Herts	1	—	1
Hortham Colony, Bristol	1	1	2
In Rampton State Institution ...	13	4	17
Under Guardianship	3	7	10
	72	78	150

Of the above, two males and three females were on leave of absence from Certified Institutions on 31st December, 1937, and also one female on leave from Guardianship.

BROMHAM HOUSE COLONY.

The Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire Joint Board for the Mentally Defective are providing accommodation at Bromham House near Bedford for 260 mental defectives. The necessary buildings have been erected and are now being equipped. It is confidently expected that the Colony will be ready for the reception of patients very early in the new year.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

NATIONAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN.

In the autumn of 1937, the Minister of Health inaugurated a National Health Campaign to encourage the wider use of the Health Services, the necessary publicity to be carried out by the various Local Authorities throughout the Country. Publicity material, consisting of posters and folders prepared by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education in conjunction with the Central Council for Health Education, were supplied, the cost of which was borne by the Government.

The Campaign extended from October, 1937, to March, 1938, a separate section of the Health Services being dealt with each month. Series of posters and pamphlets were supplied for the purpose during this period.

The Head Teachers of all the schools in the County Area gave valuable help in the carrying out of this Campaign by distributing pamphlets to their scholars, at the same time giving a simple explanation of the pamphlets and asking the scholars to give them to their parents. From enquiries, I was pleased to find that this instruction was invariably carried out. A series of Health Posters was also exhibited in a prominent position at each school.

At each of the Council's Infant Welfare Centres, posters were exhibited and pamphlets distributed to the mothers attending.

Permission was obtained from the Chief Constable for the exhibition of posters on the police notice boards throughout the County.

EXHIBITION AT LUTON.

On the invitation of the Luton Corporation, a Health Exhibition was arranged by the County Public Health Department at the Luton Municipal and Bedfordshire Industries Exhibition at Luton on May 11th to the 22nd, 1937. The Stand allotted to the Department measured 28ft. by 7ft. 6 ins. Tableaux were arranged illustrating a tuberculosis clinic and the health visiting service in the home. The exhibits included models and photographs drawing

attention to the child welfare service, the school dental service, the school milk scheme and the use of the X-ray and microscope in the diagnosis of tuberculosis. Wax models of articles of food were also exhibited explaining in a popular manner the use and relative values of the various classes of food stuffs. Trays containing "Balanced Meals" e.g., breakfast and dinner for children and adults prepared on an economical basis were exhibited. Attention was also drawn to the Venereal Diseases treatment service by display cards and the distribution of free literature.

An officer of the Department and a nurse from one of the Council's institutions was on duty at the Stand daily during the Exhibition. A great deal of interest was taken in the exhibits by members of the public as is evidenced by the fact that over 16,000 pamphlets on various health matters were distributed to those interested.

Statistics supplied by the promoters of the Exhibition showed that the total attendance at the Exhibition was 107,000.

INFORMATION AT POST OFFICES.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Minister of Health that information should be available at all Post Offices with regard to the Local Health Services, a Pamphlet was prepared in December, 1937, and copies supplied to each of the 170 Post Offices in the County and to 9 others situated just outside the County boundary.

The Pamphlet consisted of eight pages, quarto size, to conform to the requirements of the Postmaster General.

Information is given in the Pamphlet of all the Health Services available for the public in Bedfordshire, together with the names and addresses of the District Medical Officers of Health, Vaccination Officers, Registrars of Births and Deaths, Relieving Officers and particulars of ambulances and hospitals in the County.

The Pamphlet has also been found very useful for distribution at the various Clinics and Health Departments throughout the County and a copy has also been supplied to the Head Teachers at each of the Council's schools.

MILK AND DAIRIES (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1915.

Under the above Act the Medical Officer of Health of any Local Authority who has reason to suspect that tuberculosis is caused, or is likely to be caused, by the consumption of any milk which is being sold, or exposed, or kept, for sale within the area of the Local Authority, should endeavour to ascertain the source, or sources, of the supply, and on ascertaining the facts should forthwith give notice of them to the County Medical Officer of Health. On receipt of such information the County Medical

Officer at once notifies the Chief Veterinary Officer, who arranges an early examination of all milk producing animals on the farm, or farms. Samples of milk are collected from cows thought to be suspicious, and group samples are taken from the remainder of the herd for examination.

Where tubercle bacilli are discovered arrangements are made for the immediate slaughter of the affected animals. The results of all investigations are communicated to the Medical Officers of the Local Authorities concerned.

During the year under review three such cases were reported. Investigations proved that in two instances the producing herds contained a cow affected with tuberculosis of the udder, and these animals were slaughtered. Enquiries concerning the third case showed that the sample found to contain tubercle bacilli was a bulk sample, seven herds of cattle being involved, some of which were at farms outside Bedfordshire. An examination of the Bedfordshire herds failed to discover the source of the infection and the Medical Officer of the adjoining County concerned was informed and arranged for investigations to be made in respect of the herds in his area.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

Seventy-three animals were slaughtered during the year under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925, as compared with 71 in 1936.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

The County Register containing the names of registered cow keepers is kept in the Public Health Department. Sanitary Authorities are required to notify the County Council of all alterations made in their registers of cow keepers so that the central register may be kept up to date. The number of registered cow keepers on the County Register on 31st December, 1937, was 632.

The approximate number of dairy cattle in the County as given in the Ministry of Agriculture Returns is 14,500.

The Scheme approved by the County Council for the routine clinical examination of the milk producing herds within the County provides for four such routine examinations to take place annually. This work was carried out during 1937 by the County Veterinary Department.

MILK (Special Designations) ORDER, 1936.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, revoking the Orders of 1923 and 1934, came into operation on the 1st June, 1936.

This Order was referred to in the Report for 1936, but in view of the frequent enquiries made at the Public Health Department with reference to it, it is thought well to repeat the information.

The new Order revises the former system of milk grading, and prescribes the following Special Designations for milk :—

" Tuberculin Tested." The conditions for this grade are substantially the same as those previously prescribed for Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) milk. It is milk from cows which have passed a veterinary examination and a tuberculin test, and it may be bottled on the farm or elsewhere.

The milk must satisfy a prescribed methylene blue reduction test for cleanliness and must contain no coliform bacillus in one-hundredth of a millilitre.

If pasteurised, it must be described as " Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised) " and must not contain more than 30,000 bacteria per millilitre. If it is bottled on the farm the word " (Certified) " may be added to its description.

" Accredited." The conditions for this grade are similar to those prescribed in the Order of 1923 for Grade A milk. It is raw milk from cows which have passed a veterinary examination ; it may be bottled on the farm or elsewhere. It must satisfy the same bacteriological tests as are prescribed for raw Tuberculin Tested Milk.

" Pasteurised." This designation is applicable both where " Accredited " milk and where ungraded milk is pasteurised in accordance with the requirements of the Order. The conditions are substantially the same as in the Order of 1923, except that further conditions are imposed with regard to thermometers and temperature records.

The designations, " Certified," " Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)," and " Grade A " are abolished.

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

On the 31st December, 1937, the number of persons in the County of Bedford licensed by the County Council as producers of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk was 11.

Accredited Milk.

On the 31st December, 1937, there were, in the County, 89 producers holding licences for the production of "Accredited" milk, 13 new licences having been issued during the year.

Five hundred and fifteen samples of milk were taken by the County Sanitary Inspector during the year in connection with Licences for designated milk, particulars of which are given below :

Source of Supply	Total.	Result of Examination.	
		Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Milk produced by herds of intending applicants for licences	78	51	27
Milk produced by herds of applicants for licences	65	43	22
Milk produced by designated herds	372	267	105
TOTAL	515	361	154

It will be seen that 71.77% of the samples of designated milk were up to the required standard, whilst the remaining 28.23% fell below the standard for designated milk.

SCHOOL MILK SUPPLY

The Scheme whereby scholars are able to receive one-third of a pint of fresh milk for one halfpenny is now in operation at 80 schools in the County. A census taken in October, 1937, revealed that 4723 scholars were participating in the Scheme as compared with 5,033 at the same time in 1936. In 40 schools independent arrangements have been made for 1,797 scholars to receive milk or milk preparations.

Before an arrangement can be entered into by the Head Teacher for a supply of milk under the Scheme, the approval of the County Medical Officer of Health must be obtained. Approval has only been given after consultation with the Medical Officer of Health of the local Sanitary district in which the school is situated, and after careful investigation, and when the milk is of a standard of cleanliness equal to that of " Accredited."

The herds from which the Schools are supplied, are examined four times a year by the Council's Veterinary Surgeon, and the methods of production by the dairymen supplying the schools have been kept under constant supervision, regular inspections being made of the cow sheds and dairies. The Schools are supplied by 4 "Tuberculin Tested" herds, 15 "Accredited" herds and 30 non-accredited herds.

Routine milk samples have been taken from every school milk producer in the County. Of the 93 samples of milk taken from the non-accredited herds during the year, 60 were of the required standard. In those instances where the milk samples proved to be below the standard required for "Accredited" milk, the producer was notified and further samples taken.

In the event of the milk continuing to be below the required standard approval to the supply of such milk would be withdrawn.

I am happy to report that such action was not found to be necessary during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS

In the past the duties under the sale of Food and Drugs Acts were carried out by an Officer of the Bedfordshire Constabulary. On the 1st January, 1937, the procedure was altered by the appointment of the County Sanitary Inspector to carry out these duties, and during the year 1063 samples were obtained and submitted to Mr. J. Kear Colwell, the County Analyst for analysis and report. A summary of the results of analysis of these samples together with Mr. Colwell's report on the subject appear in the following pages.

Article Submitted for Analysis	No. of Genuine Samples (1039).	No. of Adulterated Samples (24).	Remarks as to Adulteration.
Ale (Dry Ginger)	1		
Ale (Old) ...	1		
Ale (Pale) ...	2		
Alkagen	1		
Almond (Blend)	1		
Almonds (Ground) ...	1		
Antiphlogistine	1		
Apricots (Dried)	2		
Arrowroot ...	6		
Aspirin	1		
Aspro	2		
Bacon	9		
Balsam of Aniseed ...	3		
Balsam (Black-currant, Honey and Aniseed) ...	1		
Barley (Pearl) ...	2		
Barley Sugar Glucose ...	3		
Beans (Baked) ...	3		
Beans (Bile) ...	1		
Beans (Butter) ...	1		
Beans (Canned)...	1		
Beans (Coffee) ...	1		
Beans (Haricot)	2		
Beef (Corned) ...	3		
Beer	11		
Bicarbonate of Soda ...	1		
Biscuits	22		
Bisto	4		
Borax	1		
Bournvita ...	3		
Bovril	1		
Brandy	4		
Brawn	2		
Bread	2		
Bristlings ...	1		
Bristlings (Canned) ...	1		

TABLE OF SUMMARY.—*continued.*

Article Submitted for Analysis.	No. of Genuine Samples (1039)	No. of Adulterated Samples (24).	Remarks as to Adulteration.
Butter	29		
Cafe au Lait ...	1		
Cake	5		
Cake Sponge ...	1		
Cakeoma ...	2		
Capers (French)	1		
Castorets... ...	1		
Castowins ...	1		
Certo	1		
Cheese	20		
Cherries (Canned)	1		
Cherries (Glace) '	1		
Cherry Cider ...	1		
Cicfa	1		
Chocolate ...	2		
Chutney	1		
Cinnamon and Quinine ...	1		
Claribrite ...	1		
Cocoa	14		
Cocoa (Malted Milk) ...	1		
Coconut	1		
Coffee	4		
Coffee and Chicory ...	3		
Cookeen	2		
Cornflour ...	5		
Crab (Dressed) ...	1		
Cream	2		
Cream (Canned) '	1		
Cream (Cold) ...	1		
Cream (Mint Salad) ...	1		
Cream-O-Rice ...	1		
Cream (Salad) ...	2		
Cream (Table ... Coffee) ...	4		
Cream (Tomato)	1		
Crisps, Potato ...	1		
Crumpets ...	1		
Crystals (Jelly)...	5		
Crystals (Lemon)	1		
Crystals (Lemon Barley) ...	1		
Crystals (Lemonade)	1		
Crystals (Pot Permanganate)	1		
Crystals (Raspberry)	1		
Cubes (Beef) ...	1		
Cubes (Marmite)	1		
Cubes (Oxo) ...	1		
Cubes (Verox) ...	1		
Curd (Lemon) ...	1		

TABLE OF SUMMARY.—*continued.*

Article Submitted for Analysis.	No. of Genuine Samples (1039).	No. of Adulterated Samples (24).	Remarks as to adulteration.
Cure (Gout and Rheumatic)	1		
Currants ...	12		
Custard (Rice) ...	1		
Darvita	1		
Dates	1		
Dates (Pudding)	1		
Dripping... ...	1		
Egrol	1		
Embrocation ...	1		
Essence (Almond)	1		
Essence (Cochineal)	1		
Essence (Coffee)	2		
Essence (Coffee and Chicory)	2		
Essence (Composition)	1		
Essence (Peppermint)	1		
Essence (Rennet)	1		
Essence (Vanilla)	1		
Essence (Ginger Wine) ...	1		
Extract (Coffee)	2		
Extract (Ginger Wine) ...	1		
Figs	1		
Figs, Syrup of ...	3		
Flour	4		
Flour (Ginger Cake) ...	1		
Flour (Pea) ...	1		
Flour (Selfraising)	9		
Food (Benger's)	1		
Food (Chemical)	2		
Force	2		
Friar's Balsam ...	1		
Fruit	7		
Fruit Salad (Canned) ...	2		
Fruit Salad in Jelly (Canned) ...	1		
Gelatine (Powdered)	1		
Gin	2		
Ginger (Ground)	3		
Glycerine ...	4		
Glycerine (Lemon and Ipecac) ...	2		
Gooseberries (Bottled) ...	1		
Grape Fruit (Canned) ...	1		

TABLE OF SUMMARY.—*continued.*

Articles Submitted for Analysis	No. of Genuine Samples (1039)	No. of Adulterated Samples (24).	Remarks as to Adulteration.
Grape Nuts ...	2		
Gravy Salt ...	1		
Groats	1		
Groats (Barley)	1		
Guinness ...	2		
Haslet	1		
Herbs (Mixed) ...	1		
Herbs (Parsley Dried) ...	1		
Honey	4		
Horseradish ...	1		
Horseradish ... (Evaporated)	1		
Ice (Camphor) ...	1		
Icecream ...	2		
Iodine	7		
Jam	8		
Jelly	4		
Jelly (Glycerine)	4		
Jelly (Lemon) ...	1		
Jelly (Milk) ...	1		
Kaolin	1		
Kernels (Barley)	1		
Ketchup (Mushroom)	1		
Ketchup (Tomato)	1		
Kipper Snack (Canned) ...	1		
Lactogol ...	1		
Lard	11		
Laxative, Chocolate ...	1		
Leaves, Senna ...	1		
Lemon (Golden)	1		
Lentils	1		
Licorice	1		
Lime Juice ...	1		
Liniment ...	1		
Liniment, Sloan's	1		
Liniment (Tooth)	1		
Liquid Paraffin ...	1		
Lollipop ...	1		
Lung Tonic ...	1		
Macaroni ...	3		
Macaroni (Egg)...	1		
Magna	1		
Magnesia, Citrate of ...	1		
Magnesia ... Milk of ...	1		
Maltoline ...	1		
Margarine ...	17		
Marmalade ...	3		
Marmite ...	1		
Mayonnaise ...	1		

TABLE OF SUMMARY.—*continued.*

Articles Submitted for Analysis.	No. of Genuine Samples (1039)	No. of Adulterated Samples (24).	Remarks as to Adulteration.
Meat (Cooked) ...	2		
Meat (Potted) ...	1		
Mentholatum ...	1		
Milk	111		
Milk No. 68 ...		1	Added Water 21.8%. Fined £5 and 10s. costs
Milk No. 69 ...		1	Added Water 22.3%. Fined £5 and 10s. costs
Milk No. 92 ...		1	Added Water 7.2%. Warning letter sent.
Milk No. 50/4003		1	Fat abstracted 11.0%. Appeal to cow sample. Warning letter sent.
Milk No. 78 ...		1	Fat abstracted 2.0%. No action.
Milk No. 44 ...		1	Fat abstracted 14.0%. Case dismissed.
Milk No. 45 ...		1	Fat abstracted 7.0%. Warning letter sent.
Milk No. 48 ...		1	Fat abstracted 5.0%. Warning letter sent.
Milk No. 1 ...		1	Fat abstracted 7.0%. Warning letter sent.
Milk No. 2 ...		1	Fat abstracted 3.0%. No action.
Milk No. 75 ...		1	Fat abstracted 6.0%. Appeal to cow. Warning letter sent.
Milk No. 6 ...		1	Fat abstracted 14.0%. Case dismissed.
Milk No. 8 ...		1	Fat abstracted 10.0%. Case dismissed.
Milk No. 10 ...		1	Fat abstracted 12.0%. Case dismissed.
Milk No. 26 ...		1	Fat abstracted 5.0%. Warning letter sent.
Milk No. 35 ...		1	Fat abstracted 5.0%. Warning letter sent.
Milk No. 84 ...		1	Fat abstracted 5.0%. Warning letter sent.
Milk (Condensed S.S.) ...	4		
Milk (Condensed S.F.C.) ...	1		
Milk (Full Cream Evap.)	2		
Milk (Dried Full Cream)	1		
Milk (Dried Half Cream) ...	1		
Milk (Malted) ...	1		
Milk Shake ...	2		
Milket	2		
Milton	3		
Mincemeat ...	3		
Mints, Soda ...	2		

TABLE OF SUMMARY—*continued.*

Article Submitted for Analysis.	No. of Genuine Samples (1039)	No. of Adulterated Samples (24)	Remarks as to adulteration.
Mixture (Cake)	1		
Mixture (Milk Pudding) ...	2		
Mixture (Pancake) ...	1		
Mixture (Pudding) ...	1		
Mixture (Soup)	1		
Mixture (Sponge)	4		
Mustard	2		
Mustard No. 43		1	Starch and Farinaceous matter 10.0%. No proceedings. (Sold as a mixed article).
Mustard (Compound)	4		
Mustard (Prepared)	3		
Mustard (Prepared) No. 25 ...		1	Sulphur di-oxide 170 parts per million Case dismissed.
Oatmeal ...	1		
Oats (Cooking)	1		
Oats Quaker ...	2		
Oil Camphorated	4		
Oil Castor ...	4		
Oil Cod Liver ...	2		
Oil Cod Liver and Malt ...	1		
Oil Eucalyptus	3		
Oil Olive ...	6		
Oil Rubbing ...	1		
Oils White ...	1		
Ointment ...			
Boracic ...	1		
Ointment Iodine	1		
Ointment Killgerm ...	1		
Ointment Zinc ...	2		
Ointment Vapour	2		
Ointment Wintergreen	1		
Onions Pickled	1		
Oranges (Canned)	1		
Ostermilk No. 1	1		
Ostermilk No. 2	1		
Ovaltine ...	4		
Oxo Cubes ...	2		
Oxo Liquid ...	1		
Paste (Cheese and Celery) ...	1		
Paste (Fish) ...	4		
Paste (Meat) ...	2		
Pastry (Flakey)...	1		
Peas (Canned) ...	4		

TABLE OF SUMMARY—*continued.*

Article Submitted for Analysis.	No. of Genuine Samples (1039)	No. of Adulterated Samples (24)	Remarks as to adulteration.
Peas (Dried) ...	2		
Peas (Green Dried) ...	1		
Peas (Split) ...	3		
Peel (Candied) ...	2		
Peel Cut Mixed	1		
Peel Lemon ...	1		
Pepper	12		
Pepper Cayenne	1		
Peppermint ...	2		
Petrolagar ...	1		
Pickles	3		
Pie (Fruit) ...	2		
Pie (Pork) ...	2		
Pies (Meat) ...	2		
Pilchards (Canned) ...	1		
Pills (Alophen)	1		
Pills (Back and Kidney) ...	1		
Pills (Head and Stomach) ...	1		
Pills (Liver) ...	1		
Pineapple (Canned) ...	2		
Pods (Senna) ...	1		
Port	1		
Port Red ...	1		
Port White ...	4		
Potassium, Iodide	1		
Powder (Baking)	4		
Powder Blanc Mange ...	5		
Powder Boracic ...	2		
Powder Cake Flour ...	1		
Powder Cream Custard ...	1		
Powder Curry ...	3		
Powder Custard...	9		
Powder Egg ...	1		
Powder Milk Pudding ...	1		
Powder Pudding	1		
Powder Seidlitz	1		
Powder Soup ...	1		
Powder Stomach	3		
Powder Tooth and Nerve ...	1		
Prawns (Fancy)	1		
Prunes	2		
Quencha ...	1		
Raisins ...	5		
Raspberries ...	1		
Rice	7		

TABLE OF SUMMARY—*continued.*

Article Submitted for Analysis.	No. of Genuine Samples (1039)	No. of Adulterated Samples (24)	Remarks as to adulteration.
Rice (Cream of)	1		
Rice (Flaked) ...	1		
Rice (Ground) ...	2		
Roll, Meat (Canned) ...	1		
Rolls (Sausage)...	1		
Rum	2		
Ryvita	1		
Sage (Dried) ...	1		
Sago	6		
Salad (Fruit Dried) ...	1		
Salmon (Canned)	5		
Salt	6		
Salt (Gravy) ...	4		
Salts Epsom ...	2		
Salts Glauber ...	1		
Salts Health ...	2		
Salts Liver ...	1		
Salts Morning ...	1		
Sandwich Jam ...	2		
Sandwich Sponge	1		
Sandwich French Cream ...	1		
Sardines ...	7		
Sardines (No. 63A) ...		1	Lead 13 parts per million. Formal samples taken and found to be satisfactory.
Sauce	12		
Sauce Mint ...	2		
Sausage (Cooked)	2		
Sausages ...	10		
Sausages No. 36		1	Sulphur di-oxide 340 parts per million. Statement as to preservatives obliterated by label. (No proceedings).
Sausages (Pork, Cooked) No.7		1	Sulphur di-oxide 137 parts per million. Warning letter sent.
Sausages (Preserved) No. 4		1	Excess of Sulphur 120 parts per million. Fined £5 and 10s. costs
Seeds Carraway	2		
Semolina ...	3		
Sherbert ...	2		
Sherry (Cooking)	1		
Smacklets (Canned Fish) ...	1		
Soup	2		
Soup (Canned) ...	3		
Soup (Powdered)	1		

TABLE OF SUMMARY—*continued.*

Article Submitted for Analysis.	No. of Genuine Samples (1039)	No. of Adulterated Samples (24)	Remarks as to adulteration.
Spice Mixed ...	5		
Spice (Pickling)	1		
Spirit (Surgical)	1		
Squash (Grape Fruit) ...	1		
Squash (Orange)	1		
Squash (Lemon)	1		
Strawberries (Canned) ...	2		
Suet (Beef) ...	3		
Suet Shredded ...	4		
Sugar	27		
Sulphur	2		
Sultanas ...	4		
Sweets	46		
Syrup (Golden)	1		
Tablets (Alka Seltzer) ...	1		
Tablets (Ammon Quinine) ...	1		
Tablets (Aspirin)	1		
Tablets (Asthma)	1		
Tablets (Bisurated Magnesia) ...	2		
Tablets (Chocolate and Wormseed)...	1		
Tablets (Malted Milk) ...	1		
Tablets (Rennet)	1		
Tablets (Skin) ...	1		
Tablets (Sulphur)	1		
Tablets Throat Iodized ...	3		
Tablets Ginger Beer... ...	1		
Tablets Digestive	1		
Tapioca	6		
Tapioca Flaked...	2		
Tapioca Seed Pearl ...	1		
Tea	19		
Tomatoes (Canned) ...	1		
Tomatoes (Peeled Canned) ...			
Tongue (Glass)	1		
Torox	1		
Thyme	1		
Tizer	1		
Tonic Ale ...	1		
Tonic Stout ...	1		
Tonic Water ...	1		
Treacle	1		
Treacle (Black)...	1		

TABLE OF SUMMARY—*continued.*

Article Submitted for Analysis.	No. of Genuine Samples (1039)	No. of Adulterated Samples (24)	Remarks as to adulteration.
Trex	2		
Tribex	1		...
Trifle	1		
Trufood	1		
Vaseline ...	1		
Vermicelli ...	1		
Vinegar	18		
Vinegar No. 84		1	Deficient in Acetic Acid 8.5%. No action.
Vinegar (Malt)	2		
Vinegar Raspberry and Olive Oil	1		
Vinegar (White Distilled) ...	1		
Viota	1		
Virol	1		
Virolax	1		
Vitacup	2		
Vitagravy ...	1		
Water (Distilled)	1		
Water (Gripe) ...	1		
Water (Tonic) ...	1		
Water (Lemon Barley) ...	1		
Weetabix ...	2		
Wheat Shredded	2		
Whisky	14		
Wine Ginger ...	1		
Wine, ... Ipecacuanha	2		
Zavo	1		

Mr. J. Kear Colwell, F.I.C., the County Analyst, reports as follows :—

"During the Year 1937, 1,063 samples were submitted to me for analysis in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 950 having been purchased with the usual formalities and 113 obtained informally. In the previous Year (1936) the total number of samples examined was 648.

Of the 1,063 samples submitted during the Year under review, 24 (2.3 per cent) proved to be adulterated and were certified accordingly. In the previous year (1936) 3.2 per cent of the samples were found to be "not of the nature, substance and quality of the article demanded" and were certified to be adulterated.

Twenty-three of the adulterated samples for 1937 were purchased with the usual formalities and one other was obtained informally.

The samples certified to be adulterated were Milk, Mustard, Mustard (prepared), Sardines, Sausages, Sausages (cooked), Sausages (preserved), and Vinegar.

Milk. During the Year 128 samples were submitted for analysis and of these, no less than 17 (13.3 per cent), practically one in seven, fell below the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture Regulations for genuine milk of the poorest quality. Three of the samples had been diluted with water, the amount varying from at least 7.2 per cent to at least 22.3 per cent and from 14 others fat had been abstracted to the extent of at least 2.0 per cent to at least 14.0 per cent.

The average composition of the 111 samples obtained in the County during the Year and certified to be genuine was 3.47 per cent of Fat and 8.98 per cent of Non-fatty Solids. The figure for the Non-fatty Solids is practically the same as for some years past, but it is regrettable to find that the average Fat content is distinctly lower than in previous years, as indicated by a reference to the table on the next page. In view of these results and in addition to the fact that 14 other samples, not included in these averages, were deficient in fat, it is obvious that the milk supply of the County has deteriorated, which seems to be most unfortunate, when it is well known that the whole of the Medical Profession and all those interested in the maintenance of a proper and scientific dietary continue to emphasise the importance of a good milk supply and therefore I make no apology for repeating the statement made in the last report :

"Whatever the reason given, whether it be the improper feeding of the cow, improper milking, unsuitability of the breed of the milk producing herd, the failure to stir during the sale of the milk, or skimming, or separating, or diluting with water, it is a matter of very grave concern that the article upon which so many young children, invalids and even children of older growth depend for much of their daily food, should be so sophisticated as to upset its natural balance as the "perfect food" it is generally acknowledged to be, and for that reason should only be modified on the prescription or advice of a medical practitioner who might desire to alter the composition to suit the needs of a particular patient."

I cannot help feeling that steps should be taken to enforce the provision of a supply of milk of the highest standard of quality which should be available for the needs of all consumers.

Following is a table in which I have set out the results of the analyses of the genuine milks month by month and have compared them with a similar table introduced in the last report.

Monthly Variation of Chemical Composition of Genuine Milk during the Years 1935, 1936 and 1937.

Month	Number of Samps. exam. Genuine			Fat p.c. average			Non-fatty Solids p.c. average			Number of Samples. Not Genuine		
	1935	1936	1937	1935	1936	1937	1935	1936	1937	1935	1936	1937
January	21	12	1	3.39	3.64	3.60	8.83	9.16	9.23	2	2	0
February ...	27	6	18	3.56	3.90	3.54	9.05	9.19	9.04	7	0	2
March	12	15	16	3.56	3.57	3.23	8.86	8.93	8.87	0	2	0
April	14	8	25	3.52	3.65	3.42	8.73	9.07	8.98	2	0	2
May	3	1	2	3.33	3.50	3.25	8.99	8.98	8.87	1	2	4
June	7	10	10	3.21	3.75	3.40	9.19	9.07	8.87	5	4	8
July ...	1	0	3	3.60	—	3.27	8.84	—	8.97	0	0	1
August	11	6	4	3.53	3.68	3.25	8.77	9.07	9.11	1	0	0
September ...	10	10	1	3.54	3.49	4.50	8.83	8.94	8.78	1	3	0
October	17	0	17	3.48	—	3.60	8.97	—	9.06	0	0	0
November ...	18	7	3	3.79	4.09	4.57	9.00	9.26	9.10	1	2	0
December ...	0	9	11	—	3.77	3.52	—	8.95	8.94	0	1	0
Whole Year	141	84	111	3.53	3.70	3.47	8.92	9.06	8.98	20	16	17

Mustard. One of the samples of mustard had been diluted with 10.0 per cent of starch and farinaceous matter without being labelled to that effect.

A sample of "Prepared" Mustard was found to contain 170 parts per million of sulphur di-oxide. The use of Preservatives is not permitted in this article.

Sardines. The sample of sardines certified to be adulterated was found to contain 13 parts per million of Lead, which must be regarded as an excessive and dangerous quantity. Samples of a similar character have been found in other districts and are apparently all of Portuguese origin. Sardines before canning are submitted to a process of grilling, and it is stated that the grills used in Portugal are frequently made of metal containing high percentages of Lead which is absorbed into the sardines during the cooking operation. As a result of the action taken, these brands have been returned or destroyed. It would certainly be most dangerous to permit the consumption of such a popular delicacy without taking all possible precaution to ensure the safety of the consumer, especially as there are so many brands which are quite satisfactory. I may add that at a recent conference of the Port Medical Officers, it was agreed that the former provisional limit for Lead in sardines, should be revised and that the limit should be reduced to 5 parts per million of Lead, but even that amount could only be tolerated for a limited period, the ultimate requirement being that sardines should be free from Lead, or contain only negligible traces of this metal.

Sausages. One of the samples of sausages was found to contain 340 parts per million of sulphur di-oxide and as no notice of the addition was given it was certified to be adulterated according to the provisions of the Preservatives Regulations.

In another sample, sold as Preserved Sausages, the amount of sulphur di-oxide found was 570 parts per million, being 120 parts per million in excess of the quantity of preservative allowed, (450 parts per million) even when notice is given.

In a further case where Cooked Sausages had been purchased, 137 parts per million of sulphur di-oxide was found, indicating that the process of cooking does not always eliminate the preservative.

Vinegar. One of the samples of vinegar was deficient in acetic acid to the extent of 8.5 per cent of the required amount.

Vinegar should contain at least 4.0 per cent of acetic acid, and it has recently been held that this should be manufactured by the brewing process, and not be merely a mixture of acetic acid and water, or a preparation obtained from wood or by some other process.

Proposed New Legislation. A Bill has recently been prepared by a Committee to consolidate with amendments, certain enactments relating to Food, Drugs, Markets, Slaughter-houses and Knackers' yards, a draft of which was presented to Parliament by the Ministry of Health in December, 1937."

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS IN THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

During the year, 142 samples were taken, 106 being formal samples, and 36 informal samples, the whole of which were submitted to, and reported on, by the Public Analyst.

Of this number 7 formal samples of milk were adversely reported upon. In addition 87 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination to the School of Agriculture, Cambridge ; 21 samples of milk were submitted for examination for tuberculosis to The Field Laboratories, Cambridge ; and 166 samples of milk were examined in accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) Order.

109 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the phosphatase test.

300 samples of milk were obtained informally for examination by the Gerber test in the Laboratory at the Town Hall. Of these 6 were found to be below standard and appropriate action was taken in each case.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS IN THE BOROUGH OF LUTON

During the year, 463 samples were taken, 163 being formal samples, and 300 informal samples, all of which were submitted to and reported on, by the Public Analyst, with the exception of three samples which were purchased with a view to possible contravention of the Regulations relating to the labelling of foodstuffs.

Of this number, 31 were found not to be genuine. Twenty-seven of these were milk.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1925—1927.

By these Regulations a definite restriction has been placed on the use of preservatives in certain articles of food. No preservative is to be added to milk and cream in any case.

Seven samples of Cream were submitted for analysis during the year 1937. Of these samples four were taken in the Borough of Luton.

All the samples were found to be genuine.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (DRIED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923-1927.

Fifteen samples were examined and found to comply with the requirements of the Regulations.

ARTIFICIAL CREAM ACT, 1929.

There is only one person registered for the manufacture and sale of artificial cream in the County. The premises are inspected periodically. Only small quantities are manufactured at seasonal times of the year.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (CONDENSED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923-1927.

Twelve samples were examined, all of which were found to comply with the requirements of the Regulations.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The Reports of the District Medical Officers of Health record details of the inspection of meat and other foods, shops, stalls, slaughter-houses and other premises in which food is prepared.

In the Borough of Luton 17 tons 17 cwts. 3 qrs. 21 lbs. of unsound food was condemned and destroyed ; in the Borough of Bedford 4 tons 6 cwts. 2 qrs. 2 lbs. of unsound food was destroyed, and in the Biggleswade Rural District 19 tons 7 cwts. 2 qrs. 19 lbs. of meat was condemned and voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

MATTERS OF GENERAL SANITATION.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Ampthill Rural District.

The work in connection with the Scheme for supplying the whole District with water, particulars of which were set out on page 77 of my Annual Report for 1934, was completed by the end of 1937, and the Rural District Council took over 83 miles of mains varying in size from 3″ to 8.″

The Medical Officer reports that :—

"Extensions to the mains have been made by the Council, in the parishes of Cranfield, Haynes, Houghton Conquest, Marston, Millbrook, Ridgmont, Salford, Eversholt, Pulloxhill, Lidlington and Harlington, and a Scheme has been prepared for further extensions."

Bedford Rural District.

The Scheme for supplying the whole District with water, particulars of which were set out on page 78 of the Annual Report for 1934, has been completed and is working satisfactorily.

Every village in the District is now served with water from public mains. The question of making extensions to serve outlying properties is under consideration.

Biggleswade Rural District.

Work is proceeding to augment the water supply for this District. Particulars of the Scheme are given on page 97, under the heading of Biggleswade Urban District.

During the year 160 yards of 3 inch mains were laid at Stotfold and 72 yards of 3 inch mains at Potton.

Luton Rural District.

The Medical Officer for the Luton Rural District reports that :—

"It is proposed to utilise the new bore hole at Battlesden for supplying the Parishes of Eggington, Hockliffe, Heath and Reach and Stanbridge. In the meantime the Council have made arrangements with the Leighton Buzzard Urban District Council to supply Heath and Reach as soon as possible.

A temporary piped supply is being provided to the village of Eggington, where the supply has long been unsatisfactory.

During the year new mains have been laid throughout the village of Barton and standpipes erected at various points to serve the houses. Of the total length of 4,851 yards of main, 4,642 yards of 3 inch pipe and 209 yards of 2 inch pipe were laid. Connections to the mains to serve private properties are being made.

At Caddington, a further 100 yards of 3 inch main has been laid in Lower Woodside, 234 yards in Markyate Road, Slip End, and 150 yards of 2 inch main in Mancroft Road, all of which afforded internal supplies to new properties.

The mains of the Dunstable Gas and Water Co., have been extended for a distance of 682 yards in the parish of Totternhoe to afford a supply to the adjoining parish of Eaton Bray. In the latter parish 4,564 yards of 3 inch, 63 yards of 2 inch and 73 yards of 1½ inch mains have been laid, the houses being served by the erection of standpipes and by direct connection to the mains.

Extensions have also been made at Streatley and Sundon where 100 yards and 50 yards respectively of 2 inch main have been laid.

Combined extensions of gas and water mains have been made by the Dunstable Gas and Water Co., at Douglas Crescent, Houghton Regis, to serve new houses erected on this estate."

Grants.

As stated in my Report for 1935, the question of contributions by the County Council under Section 57 of the Local Government Act, 1929, towards the cost of the schemes has received consideration.

In addition to the requirement that all schemes proposed to be adopted by any Rural District Council must first be submitted to, and approved by, the County Council and the work carried out to the satisfaction of the County Water Engineers, to be eligible for grants, the following terms and conditions have been laid down:—

(1) A Rural District Council shall charge, or for the purpose of calculating the contribution, if any, to be made by this Council, shall be deemed to have charged, a minimum tariff of 12½% on the rateable value for domestic supplies, and for measured supplies 1s. 6d. per thousand gallons or such other sum as in the discretion of the District Council concerned may appear to them to be reasonable and proper.

(2) The surpluses or deficiencies on all water undertakings in a Rural District to be ascertained and the resulting aggregate nett surplus or deficiency expressed as a rate in the £ on the General District Rate.

(3) A Rural District Council to be required to bear the cost of such nett deficiencies up to the equivalent of a rate of 6d. in the £.

(4) Any excess beyond such figure to be borne in equal proportions by the County Council and a Rural District Council, but so that the total to be borne by a Rural District Council is not to exceed the equivalent of 1s. in the £ on the general rate, the County Council to bear anything in excess.

Borough of Bedford.

The Medical Officer for the Bedford Urban District reports that :—

"The water has continued to be satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year.

The present arrangement of the treatment by potassium permanganate is proving effective and the difficulties in connection with algal growths which were experienced some years back have not occurred.

It has not been found economical to use the coagulation plant unless an exceedingly turbid water is required to be treated. The use of this type of treatment owing to the high dosage required by our water is liable to cause trouble at the filters.

Alterations have recently been completed to the chlorine treatment installation with a view to improving the efficiency of the plant. The possibility of a stoppage has been reduced to a minimum. Spare pipe lines have been made up to deal immediately with any difficulty which may arise from leaky joints.

Considerable lengths of new mains have been laid during the past year while the existing mains have maintained their efficiency in delivering water to the inhabitants.

All the districts in those parts of the Bedford Rural District Council which formerly received their supply direct from the Corporation now receive their water supply direct from the Rural District Council's Water Tower at Milton Ernest with the exception of that portion of the district which is fed from the Corporation's main in Harrowden Road.

All the old ball hydrants have now been replaced by valve hydrants, thus eliminating a possible source of contamination.

Apart from the increase in supply due to the larger area now supplied through the Bedford Rural District Council's Scheme there is a marked increase in the consumption of the water. New Housing Estates have been, or are being, developed on the outskirts of the Borough and consideration will have to be given to the extension of trunk mains to ensure the continuation of adequate pressure in these areas.

Minor improvements are about to be undertaken at the Purification Works with the object of preventing any chance contamination reaching the water in the course of purification. It is hoped to reconstruct filters 1, 2, and 3 during the year 1938-39. These filters are the oldest at the Works and have been in operation since 1885."

Borough of Luton.

The Medical Officer for the Luton Urban District reports that :—

"During the year water mains have been extended by the Luton Water Company in the following districts :—

New Bedford Road
Old Bedford Road
Limbury
Leagrave
Stopsley
Round Green
Hart Hill
Dallow Ward
Dunstable Road."

Borough of Dunstable.

The Medical Officer for the Dunstable Urban District reports that :—

"The water supply of the Borough is controlled and undertaken by the Dunstable Gas and Water Company and is obtained from deep wells dug in the chalk within the Borough.

No shortage was experienced during the year.

Results of analyses during the year show that the water continues to be of exceptionally good quality, although hard in character.

Arrangements have now been made for a more frequent submission of samples for examination.

Every care is taken to ensure that development in the neighbourhood of the wells is so carried out as to prevent all risk of contamination of the supply and in this connection it is worthy of mention that the drainage of the isolation hospital which is situated about 1,000 yards from the wells has now been connected to the Corporation sewers and the original unsatisfactory system abolished.

A satisfactory arrangement has been in existence for some time between the Water Company and the Officers of the Council for the exchange of information relating to matters affecting the water supply and the arrangement works very satisfactorily.

During the year a new 15 inch main was laid from the storage reservoir at the water works to a point in High Street South at the junction with King Street to improve water pressures in Luton Road and High Street North and South areas."

Biggleswade Urban District Council.

The Medical Officer for the Biggleswade Urban District reports that :—

"The Water Board early in the year embarked on a scheme for the augmentation of its supplies. Four boreholes have been sunk at Dunton, the tests of which were so successful that when the scheme is completed the capacity of the existing station at Toplers Hill will be duplicated. The scheme is progressing satisfactorily and it is hoped that it will be completed within the next twelve months.

200 yards of 4 inch mains and 720 yards of 3 inch mains were laid during the year."

Kempston Urban District.

The Medical Officer for the **Kempston Urban District** reports that :—

"With a few exceptions, water is supplied directly into every dwelling house in the area. Much benefit in pressure has been effected by the duplicating of the trunk mains from the reservoir and the larger distributing mains recently laid in the area. There is, however, a slight decrease in pressure owing to the large number of new houses that have been connected to the supply within the area during the past year, and also to the fact that more water is now being taken from the mains to serve the demands of those supplied outside the area.

During the year under review the following extensions to the Council's mains have been carried out :—

Hoo Estate 1,200 feet of 3 inch main.
Chantry Estate 615 feet of 3 inch main.

These additions were necessary to serve private building estates."

Leighton Buzzard Urban District.

The Medical Officer for the Leighton Buzzard Urban District reports that :—

"The scheme for increasing the supply of water is now well in hand, a new 24 inch diameter borehole has been sunk to a depth of 210 feet near the site of the existing borehole and a supply of 12,000 gallons per hour was obtained on test.

The report received on the bacteriological and chemical analysis of a sample of water taken from the new borehole was quite satisfactory.

The new plant will consist of a vertical spindle, five stage, 6 inch diameter, centrifugal pump, driven by a 30 h.p. Electric Motor, and the old pumps and borehole will be maintained in reserve for an alternative supply.

It is estimated that the new plant will be in use early in July, 1938."

POLLUTION OF RIVERS.

The two principal rivers in the County are the Ouse and the Ivel. Inspections were made during the year and as far as could be ascertained no serious pollution was taking place.

RAINFALL.

The total Rainfall recorded at the County Sanatorium was 31.89 inches. In the previous year a rainfall of 27.41 inches was recorded. The highest rainfall during the year was recorded in the months of February, March and May, whilst June and July were the driest months. The average for England and Wales in 1937 was 39.1 inches, as against 38.5 in the previous year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year under review a survey was made of the methods of sewage disposal, etc., in each parish of the administrative County. Every Urban District in the County, namely, Ampthill, Bedford, Biggleswade, Dunstable, Kempston, Leighton Buzzard, Luton and Sandy, is provided with a sewage disposal works. As and when deemed necessary, extensions are made to the sewers to serve newly erected buildings.

Investigations into the conditions prevailing in the Rural parts of the County showed that in the smaller villages no nuisance, or danger to the public health existed. In some of the larger villages, however, where the population is increasing, conditions are not so satisfactory, and after consulting with the District Medical Officers of Health, the County Medical Officer of Health made the following recommendations.

Ampthill Rural District.

The question of the provision of a sewerage system for Flitwick should now receive consideration, since a piped water supply is available for the whole village. This matter has been considered on more than one occasion, but until a piped water supply was available it was impracticable to make such provision.

Bedford Rural District.

The present conditions at Great Barford, Turvey, and Wootton, are such that the question of the provision of sewerage schemes in these villages should have consideration.

Biggleswade Rural District.

A Scheme has been prepared by Messrs. Binnie, Deacon, and Gourley for the sewerage of Shefford, Clifton, and Henlow, by a joint sewerage scheme. Such a provision is very necessary in this area.

Luton Rural District.

When the water supply is such as will permit of a sewerage scheme, the question of providing sewerage schemes for Caddington, Hockliffe, and Toddington, should be considered.

The Report of the County Medical Officer of Health was considered by the special Committee of the Council, and it was decided to draw the attention of the Local Authorities concerned to the Medical Officer of Health's recommendations.

With regard to the question of grants from the County Council towards the expenditure incurred by a District Council in the provision of sewage disposal works, the County Council decided that a sum, not exceeding the product of a penny rate, be set aside annually for this purpose, and that in order that an equitable distribution of this sum be made, the Rural District Councils were asked to submit details of proposed Schemes not later than 30th June, 1938. The conditions with regard to grants to be made by the County Council were decided by the Council at their Meeting on the 26th July, 1935, and are as follows :—

1. That a contribution be paid only in respect of new Schemes, but that no contribution be made unless the Council are satisfied that the area cannot undertake the Scheme without undue hardship.

2. That the following conditions apply to schemes submitted for consideration :—

   (A) The Council must be satisfied that the scheme (i) is necessary ; (ii) is the most satisfactory method of providing the services required ; (iii) will provide for the needs of a sufficiently large area ; (iv) will provide, or can be adapted, for such development as can be reasonably anticipated ; (v) is reasonable in cost ; (vi) is approved by the Ministry of Health.

   (B) The Rural District Council must make a contribution as part of their expenditure for general purposes.

   (C) The Council's contribution will be based on capital cost only.

   (D) Each application will be considered on its merits and contributions will be subject to revision.

During 1937 various works of improvement and extension have been carried out.

The Medical Officer for the **Bedford Urban District** reports that :—

"Sewers have been laid in the whole of the private streets in the added areas, with the exception of Putnoe Lane, and the northern extension of Brookfield Road. The sewers in these Roads will be completed during the year 1938.

The Queen's Park and Midland Road relief sewer has been completed and the River Street surface water culvert has also been completed. The completion of these works should relieve flooding in the Midland Road area in times of storm."

The Medical Officer for the **Luton Urban District** reports that :—

"New sewerage schemes have been carried out during the year at an approximate total cost of £5,000. Plans have been made, and approved by the Ministry, for a new sewage purification works to be situate at New Mill End, which will be capable of dealing with the sewage for a population of 120,000. The ultimate capacity of the main sewers will be sufficient for six times the dry weather flow for a population of 150,000 and allowances having been made for the future extension of the sewage disposal works to deal with the full capacity."

The Medical Officer for the **Dunstable Urban District** reports that :—

"Conditions as to the disposal of sewage at the sewage farm at Houghton Regis remain unchanged.

The recording apparatus mentioned in the report for 1936 has now been installed and the information being obtained is considered with a view to any necessary scheme for alteration being carried out.

Good progress was made during the year with the connection of properties to the Sewers, which had hitherto been connected to cesspools.

285 premises in the Luton Road area together with three other properties in the Borough situated at "The Chestnuts," High Street South, "Spoondel House," West Street, and the Isolation Hospital were dealt with. In all cases the cesspools originally in use were abolished."

The Medical Officer for the **Biggleswade Urban District** reports that :—

"700 yards of 12 inch sewer and 140 yards of 8 inch sewer for new housing estates in the Potton Road Area were laid during the year."

The Medical Officer for the **Kempston Urban District** reports that :—

"There have been 584 yards of 9 inch sewers completed and coupled to the Council's sewers during the year, carried out by private enterprise, to serve the needs of new building estates.

The extensions to the Council's main sewers, the storm relief sewer, the new and larger installations at the disposal works, together with the new pumping stations and plant, have been completed during the year, and are working efficiently The effluent from the works is now satisfactory."

The Medical Officer for the **Bedford Rural District** reports that :—

"Early in 1937 the capacity of the Pumps at the Sewerage Pumping Station was severely taxed and on several occasions the Station was in danger of being flooded. It was calculated that 250,000 gallons were being pumped during 24 hours as compared with a maximum of 60,000 gallons a day stipulated in the agreement with the Corporation of Bedford.

It was evident that serious infiltration was taking place and the attention of the Consulting Engineer was immediately drawn to the serious state of affairs.

The Contractors stated that any infiltration was due to interference with the sewers by local contractors in respect of house connections, and for several weeks numerous inspections were made of every drain, gully and inspection chamber in Clapham to disprove this statement.

The Contractors, in the first instance, instructed a local firm to carry out small repairs to manholes, etc., but owing to their going out of business, the Consulting Engineer, in August, 1937, instructed Messrs. W. & C. French, Ltd., to carry out repairs on their behalf. It was soon apparent that many lengths of the sewers were in a defective condition, and that the work had been done in a slip-shod manner.

The original Contractors soon realised that the cost of the remedial work would be heavy and intimated that they would be unable to meet the cost thereof. Immediately the full facts were placed before the Minister of Health, who ordered an Inquiry to be held on January 27th, 1938, and this took place at Clapham.

The entire length of High Street and certain portions of Oakley Road, Oakley Hill Road, Mount Pleasant Road, Highbury Grove, The Warren, Preservine Walk and Green Lane have been remedied and the flow of the sewage so reduced that one pump will cope with the discharge into the Pumping Station and will be well within the flow stipulated in the agreement.

The cost of the remedial work up to March 31st, 1938, is approximately £4,000, and it is estimated that the total cost of the lengths, as indicated by the Ministry of Health to be remedied, will be £5,100. One hundred and sixty-five inspections of Messrs. French's work have been made, and all the Sewers remedied have withstood the test prescribed by the Consulting Engineers to the Bedfordshire County Council.

At the end of the year, 292 properties had been connected to the sewers, leaving 61 still to be done."

The Medical Officer for the **Luton Rural District** reports that :—

"A small extension of the sewers in Drury Lane, Houghton Regis, has been made to serve new properties.

Further extensions of the sewers of the Luton Corporation are contemplated in the parish of Sundon, but will not be laid until the new Corporation disposal works are completed.

An additional 25 yards of 9 inch sewer has been laid off Luton Road, Toddington, where the outfall has become obstructed. The proposed scheme, with new disposal works, to serve the whole of the village of Toddington, is proceeding and the approval of the Minister of Health has been obtained.

Proposals are being considered for sewerage schemes for the whole of the district, which in many parishes may necessitate the construction of individual disposal works.

The services for the emptying of cesspools have been duplicated during the year by the operation of a new 750 gallons capacity cesspool emptying apparatus which together with the existing plant serves the whole district."

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The following extracts from the Reports of District Medical Officers of Health are given with regard to the arrangements for the collection and disposal of refuse, viz.

The Medical Officer for the **Bedford Urban District** reports that :—

"The total amount of refuse dealt with at the Destructor during the year was 13,567 tons. Of this 12,219 tons was house refuse and 1,348 tons trade refuse."

The Medical Officer for the **Luton Urban District** reports that :

"The total amount of refuse collected and destroyed was 22,033 tons 13 cwts."

The Medical Officer for the **Dunstable Urban District** reports that:—

"There has been no change in the method of collection and disposal of house and trade refuse during the year.

The weekly collection has been well maintained.

The service is carried on with two 2-ton Commer Refuse Collecting Vehicles and the refuse is disposed of by Controlled Tipping in an old chalk pit and the refuse is kept well covered and no causes for complaint have arisen."

The Medical Officer for the **Luton Rural District** reports that :—

"The collection of house refuse has been extended to the parish of Caddington where a monthly collection takes place. Elsewhere in the district the existing arrangements for refuse disposal have been continued.

During the year, a new covered refuse cart of 3 yards capacity was purchased for use by the Contractor for theparish of Sundon."

THE RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Mr. E. W. Russell, the County Agricultural Officer, reports that :—

"During the past year there has been some increase in rat infestation and the number of complaints investigated has been rather more than usual. In every case dealt with by my Department reasonable steps have been taken by the occupier concerned to rid his premises of infestation and it was not necessary to ask the Clerk of the Council to take legal proceedings.

In a number of cases where the occupier has complained of rats coming on to his property from neighbouring land it was found that poultry were kept by the person complaining. It was pointed out that in such circumstances particular care is necessary to prevent rat infestation seeing that premises which are used for poultry keeping encourage rats on account of food and shelter.

A few cases have been dealt with in urban districts where food stuffs have been stored, and as baiting, gassing, etc., are means that cannot be adopted in such circumstances, the occupier has been urged to render his premises as ratproof as possible by concrete flooring, cementing up holes, etc.

A prominent owner-occupier who farms about 2,000 acres in the County has found it most effective to keep several cats at each of his farm homesteads. In my experience it has been unusual to find serious rat infestation where cats have been kept on the premises, and I have frequently advised this means where baiting or gassing have been impracticable.

National Rat Week was fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture for the week commencing 1st November, 1937. The usual steps were taken to bring this fact to the notice of the public, and the useful co-operation of Sanitary Inspectors, Parish Councils, Police and Press was again forthcoming."

HOUSING.

From information kindly supplied by District Medical Officers of Health, I have prepared the following statement showing the number of new houses erected within the County during 1937 :—

	Total number of new houses erected in 1937	By the Local Authority	By private enterprise
URBAN DISTRICTS			
Ampthill	16	—	16
Bedford	412	128	284
Biggleswade ...	78	62	16
Dunstable	183	12	171
Kempston	200	—	200
Leighton Buzzard ...	26	—	26
Luton	1453	84	1369
Sandy	10	—	10
Total	2378	286	2092
RURAL DISTRICTS			
Ampthill	268	6	262
Bedford	182	—	182
Biggleswade ...	88	22	66
Luton	280	16	264
Total	818	44	774

It will be seen from the above statement that 3,196 houses were erected within the County during 1937, as compared with 4,115 in 1936.

Once again the greatest proportion of the number of new houses erected is in the Borough of Luton.

HOUSING ACT, 1930.

Section 34 (2) of the Housing Act, 1930, provides that where the Rural District Council claims that any of the houses proposed to be erected by the Council are required for the accommodation of the agricultural population of the District, the County Council shall determine how many such houses are so required, whereupon the County Council will be called upon to contribute at the rate of £1 per annum per house for a period of 40 years, following the completion of these houses.

During the year under review applications for grants were received in respect of 8 houses. Grants were authorised for all of these houses.

The following table is inserted giving information as to the action taken by the local sanitary authorities in pursuance of Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

SANITARY DISTRICT.	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made during 1937.	No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders during 1937.
Ampthill Urban	—	—
Ampthill Rural	5	23
Bedford Urban	10	11
Bedford Rural	5	5
Biggleswade Urban ...	3	2
Biggleswade Rural ...	29	13
Dunstable Urban	3	—
Kempston Urban	—	15
Leighton Buzzard Urban ...	—	—
Luton Urban	138	179
Luton Rural	5	34
Sandy Urban	—	6
Total ...	198	288

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926.

The Scheme made by the County Council in 1928, under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, provides for assistance towards the cost of re-conditioning houses for the occupation by agricultural workers by way of loan only. The matter was re-considered during the year and the special Sub-Committee dealing with the matter were of opinion that assistance should be provided by the Council either by way of a grant or by way of loan, so as to enable, at a comparatively small cost, farm cottages to be reconditioned, provided with proper sanitary arrangements and a supply of water, for the agricultural workers and for persons whose economic conditions are substantially the same as that of such workers.

At their meeting on the 26th November, 1937, the Council decided to alter their policy and request the Public Health &c. Committee to prepare a new Scheme to provide for financial assistance by way of grant as well as loan.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

HOUSES.

Under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, Local Authorities are required to make provision for a thorough inspection of the houses in their district from time to time by their Medical Officer of Health or by an officer designated for the purpose, to ascertain the varying needs or circumstances of the dwelling houses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The workshops and workplaces within the County appear to be adequately inspected, and reasonably well maintained.

Occupiers of Factories and Workshops are required to keep lists of the names and addresses of persons employed by them to execute work at their own homes and to forward copies of such lists to the Local Authority in February and August of each year.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the Schools is reviewed by the School Medical Officers at their visits and defects found, together with suggestions as to improvements which may seem desirable, are brought to the notice of the County Surveyor's Architectural Department. These inspections are additional to those made by the officers of the district sanitary authorities.

Where thought desirable on account of outbreaks of infectious disease, the Local Sanitary Authorities have disinfected the School premises.